

Monday

Middle East
Israel through the eyes of its foremost author

Far East
Henry Stanhope on the people of Hongkong as the latest talks begin between Britain and Peking

A taste...
Modern Times on a question of taste with Stephen Bayley



of money
The case for cutting Britain's taxes
Sportsworld
Scotland versus the All Blacks; the Benson and Hedges tennis championship final; Test matches in Australia and India

Drivers at Shell ban overtime

Shell Oil tanker drivers are to start a national overtime ban from Monday after rejecting their employers' final offer of a 4.5 per cent pay increase.

Deliveries to some of the company's 3,000 filling stations in Britain may be delayed, but motorists are unlikely to notice the impact of the limited industrial actions.

Reagan warning

America will put its full industrial might behind a new military buildup unless agreement is reached with the dele-

gations on mutual arms reductions. President Reagan threatened to announce a new arms buildup on Japanese television.

Reagan would like, page 4

BBC threat

The BBC threatened to dismiss 400 outside broadcast technicians who are in dispute if they failed to return to work by next Thursday.

Turkish doubts

Mr Turgut Ozal, Prime Minister-elect of Turkey, said he had not yet decided whether an application would be made for full membership of the European Community.

Scoon's ban

Sir Paul Scoon has banned indefinitely all public meetings in Grenada, with the exception of religious services and normal business gatherings.

White to hang

A white South African has been sentenced to death for shooting dead three blacks on a night train to Johannesburg. His brother was jailed.

Bank for sale

European Ferries, which owns Townsend Thoresen, plans to sell its merchant banking subsidiary, Singer & Friedlander.

Telecom action

The Post Office Engineering Union has decided to renew its programme of selective strikes against the Government's privatization plans for British Telecom.

4% rejected

A 4 per cent pay offer in return for changes in shopfloor practices was rejected by representatives of 1,500,000 workers in the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions.

Leader, page 9

Letters on airline competition, from Mr M. Grylls, MP; farm tenancies, from Mr F. E. Elliott, and Mr J. C. Wolton; library resources, from Mr J. W. Joffe.

Leading articles: Privy Counsellors and privileges; concrete houses; Nigeria.

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Bernard Russell: the launch of a daunting publishing venture, where the Government's union reform Bill needs beefing up; the Scots who helped to pioneer Patagonia.

Obituary, page 10
Professor E. G. Bowen, Mr George Easton, Hon Mrs Violet Cripps.

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Syria determined to eliminate Arafat and PLO

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Despite pressure from the Soviet Union to ease the siege of the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli and allow Mr Yasser Arafat and his loyalist Palestinian guerrillas a graceful exit from Lebanon, Syria appeared determined last night to press on with the destruction of the PLO leader, even if this means enduring Russian displeasure and the possibility of some military humiliation at the hands of the Israelis or Americans.

Arab diplomats in Beirut and Damascus say that a talks between the Syrian and Soviet foreign ministers in Moscow, the Russians have been trying to save Mr Arafat with promises of increased military support for Damascus, but that Syria has refused all such blandishments.

With American and Israeli reconnaissance jets again flying high over Syrian-occupied Lebanon yesterday and with Mr Arafat still adamant that he will not surrender in Tripoli, the Syrians are thus facing the prospect of a conflict on two fronts.

Lebanese government officials suspect that President Assad of Syria is relying on a visit to Damascus next week by President Gama'el of Lebanon to provide a formula for both Mr Arafat's departure and a reduction in tension between Syria and America.

In Tripoli, it is now clear that Mr Arafat is still counting on some form of international pressure - especially the Soviet Union's - to rescue him from his predicament. He is stalling on any negotiations to leave the city - much as he did in Beirut last year - despite the suffering

of thousands of Lebanese there and the appeals of Tripoli's leading citizens for him to go. Shellfire fell only sporadically over Tripoli yesterday and a few of the city's shops re-opened briefly. Palestinian civilians gathered at the Islamic mosque to identify dead relatives.

The sense of fear in Tripoli is curiously equalled in Beirut where hundreds of Shia Muslim families are leaving their homes in the Bouja el-Barajneh suburb in the south-west of the city in case the Lebanese Army chooses to attack their area of the capital, which is still controlled by Muslim Militias.

The constant overflights by American jets and the ceaseless presence of a rifle and a half of the coast of the American battleship New Jersey has led many people in Bouja el-Barajneh to believe the Americans might support a Lebanese Army advance into the suburb as part of their "retaliation" for the bombing of the Marine headquarters last month.

However ill-defined or ill-conceived such fears may be, the Lebanese have noted with growing concern the outbreak of renewed fighting south of the airport. French paratroopers are now sending up their own road blocks on main roads crossing from west to east Beirut - sometimes within 50 yards of Lebanese Army checkpoints - as if the multinational force troops did not quite trust their Lebanese colleagues.

MOSCOW: Russia has told Syria it wants an end to the fratricidal fighting within the PLO and that Damascus must

restrain pro-Syrian forces from "eliminating" Mr Arafat (Richard Owen writes).

Arab diplomats said that during talks in Moscow with Mr Abdel Khatim Khaddam, the Syrian Foreign Minister, Soviet officials had said that to destroy Mr Arafat would add to dissension in the Arab world rather than creating Arab unity. The Kremlin has avoided giving Mr Arafat its full support, but has urged the Palestinians to patch up their differences.

Soviet alarm over developments in Lebanon has grown as Syria, Moscow's main ally in the region, squares up for a possible confrontation with Israel or even with American troops. There are several thousand Soviet advisers in Syria, and Moscow has supplied Damascus with SS21 and Sam 5 missiles as well as new Mig fighters and T72 tanks. Tass has repeatedly warned this week of "massive" American intervention but has stopped short of threatening Soviet action on behalf of Syria.

Diplomats said Moscow did not relish the prospect of being dragged into a conflict which involved the risk of a direct Soviet-American confrontation.

Israel warns Syria, page 5

Honduran appeal

An influential Honduran business organization has asked Dr Kissinger's commission on Central America to seek the military overthrow of the Nicaraguan Government.

Inflation rate dips to 5%

By a Staff Reporter

The yearly rate of inflation dipped slightly last month to 5 per cent from 5.1 per cent in September, and is likely to end the year well within the Government's 5 to 6 per cent forecast.

With relatively few price increases in the pipeline, and only modest pressure on industry's costs, ministers are increasingly optimistic about next year's inflation outlook.

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, said recently that inflation was likely to be on a downward path for 1984, and Treasury forecasts to be published with his autumn statement next Thursday are expected to show the pace of price rises slowing to 5 per cent or less by Christmas next year after peaking in the spring at about 6 per cent.

The prices charged by industry at the factory gate have been rising at steady rates of 5 to 5.5 per cent for much of the year, despite a sharp increase in the cost of fuel and raw materials. Companies have been able to absorb higher commodity prices because labour costs - which represent 60 to 70 per cent of total costs - are rising only slowly.

Wage costs as a result of output in manufacturing have risen by less than 1 per cent in a year, the smallest annual increase since the 1970s.

The 0.2 per cent rise in prices in October, which took the Retail Prices Index to 340.7 (January 1974=100), was caused mainly by increased housing costs and higher seasonal food prices, including potatoes, eggs and tomatoes.

Over the past 12 months prices of seasonal foods have jumped by 25 per cent following poor harvests in the wake of the cold spring and dry summer. Officials are hopeful that food costs will abate in the coming months.

Comment, page 11



I can't believe it! A shock for McEneaney when a line judge agreed with his call during the game with Steve Denton. Report, page 18

Lawson abandons spring tax cuts

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

In spite of the Treasury's success in cutting spending programmes to keep within next year's planned total, Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, has told colleagues that he no longer believes that he will have room to cut direct taxation in his spring Budget. Mr Lawson still firmly intends to reduce taxation before the end of the present Parliament. His closest Cabinet associate, Mr Peter Roes, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said yesterday that higher incentives and more efficient allocation of resources, on which economic improvement depended, required lower taxation.

But Mr Roes put that as the Government's second objective. The first was to maintain the sound money policies, which had brought down inflation to 5 per cent, by holding to the medium-term financial strategy and maintaining downward pressure on government borrowing.

In recent days Mr Lawson has been tackled by a number of Conservative backbenchers, at private gatherings, about the prospect of lower taxes next year, and they report that he has been emphatic in saying that they are not in prospect.

Also, in argument with spending ministers during recent weeks about the cuts in next year's programmes, Mr Lawson has denied that his objective was to find room for tax cuts in the coming year. He repeated that disclaimer emphatically at the Cabinet on Thursday, when agreement was reached.

How conclusive that agreement was remained in doubt yesterday, when different participants were found to differ in their recollections of the lengthy discussion on energy prices.

It was clear that there remained an unresolved issue between Mr Lawson and Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, about how far electricity prices will rise in the spring.

Mr Walker, who returned from China yesterday morning, received a report on the Cabinet meeting, which he missed.

He was told that Mr Lawson wanted to see a 3 per cent electricity price rise next April, but that the Cabinet had left the two ministers to decide how the tighter financial targets for the electricity industry should be achieved.

Other "neutral" senior ministers support that interpretation. But Mr Lawson was said last night to be in no doubt that the Cabinet endorsed his position.

Mr Walker was said to be determined to support those in charge of the industry by resisting any but the smallest increase.

The Government is assuming that council house rents will rise by an average of 75 per cent a week in England and Wales, equivalent to about 5 per cent of the average current rent of slightly more than £14 per week.

Land Rover to close plants and cut jobs

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

BL's Land Rover subsidiary is to close nine plants, with the loss of 1,560 jobs, and concentrate all its manufacturing at Solihull, Warwickshire, where the former Rover plant, closed nearly three years ago, will be reopened.

The regrouping will save about £14m a year and make Land Rover much more attractive to private investors who regard its ramshackle collection of frequently duplicated plants as a major obstacle to privatization. Inter-plant deliveries of components total nearly one million miles a year.

It also relieves the state-owned group of the problem of disposing of the Solihull plant, which was opened in 1976 at a cost of £30m. It was said then to be one of the most advanced assembly and paint plants in Europe.

But it has been on the market since Rover car production was moved to Cowley, near Oxford, in 1981, as part of Austin Rover's strategy to concentrate car assembly on Cowley and Longbridge.

Production of Land Rovers and Range Rovers continued on another part of the Solihull site, which is being modernized extensively.

More recently the "mothballed" plant was seen as a possible home for the £100m Project XX, the new executive car range which Austin Rover and Honda will produce together in two years.

Mr Tony Gilroy, managing director of Land Rover, said last night: "Austin Rover's recently-announced decision to manufacture XX at Cowley gives Land Rover a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make

fundamental improvements in cost and efficiency. "We will be replacing a series of mainly very old, small, uneconomic plants with a single, integrated modern facility. It will rid Land Rover of a very heavy financial burden and create a fully cost-effective, advanced manufacturing operation."

They all all in the Birmingham area, except Pougham, Cardiff, where 600 workers produce gearboxes. The other plants with number of employees in brackets are:

Perry Barr, axles (300); Tyburn Road, gear cases (200); Tyseley, engine components (1,000); Acocks Green, engines and transmissions (650); Garrison Street, chassis (450); Bordesley Green, gearboxes (725); Selly Oak, (20) and Drayton Road, engineering research (250).

Land Rover said that three-quarters of the workers would be offered jobs at Solihull. Closures would be phased in from the late summer, 1985, and be completed by the end of 1986.

Mr Glynne Hawley, national automotive officer of the Transport & General Workers' Union and chairman of the BL Cars joint negotiating committee, said last night: "This centralizing plan may be very attractive to the company, but 1,500 more redundancies is a real setback."

Mr James Callaghan, the former Prime Minister who is Labour MP for Cardiff South and Penarth, said that the closures were a device to enable major sections of BL to be privatized.

Most were refusing to give any hostages to fortune yesterday but Mr Robert Moffat, marketing manager of Nationalwide, the third biggest society, said: "It is not certain there will be a reduction on January 1. But there is every chance if interest rates remain steady and the inflows keep up."

Yesterday's decision of the 35-strong council to advise on no change was taken in spite of news that inflows from savers reached an all-time record of £1.01bn last month. Societies also attracted a further £295m of wholesale money from the City.

No early reduction in mortgage rate

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Building societies came down firmly against an early cut in the mortgage rate from the present 11.25 per cent yesterday, leaving Abbey National to make up its mind whether to risk going it alone.

Mr Clive Thornton, the maverick chief general manager of the Abbey who leaves at the year-end to become chairman of the Mirror Group Newspapers, failed to persuade societies at yesterday's council meeting to agree to a cut.

Having broken up the interest rate cartel, Abbey is free to make its own move downwards. But it would risk attracting a flood of mortgage applications while being unable to bring in savings to fund them.

An Abbey spokesman said nothing would happen until after its November 22 board meeting and conceded that the need for a cut now seemed less

pressing than it thought before. However, Abbey is still likely to push for lower rates from January and, if conditions remain favourable, the other societies may be ready by then.

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Varley to retire from Commons

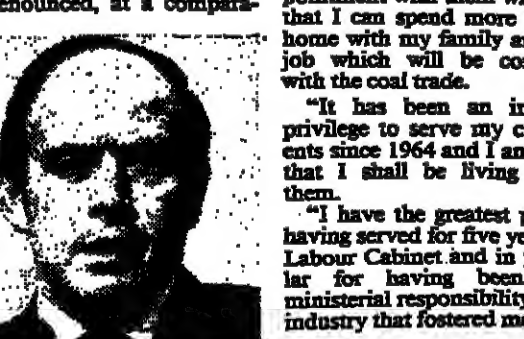
Mr Eric Varley, the former Labour Cabinet minister, announced last night that he is to leave the House of Commons "at an early date" and go into business.

Mr Varley, aged 51, is to become executive deputy chairman of the Coalite group in the new year. This will create a by-election in the safe Labour seat of Chesterfield, which he retained with a majority of 7,763 at the last general election.

There was immediate speculation that Mr Wedgwood Benn may attempt his Westminster comeback by submitting his name as Labour candidate to fight the by-election.

A question arose over Mr Varley's political future from the moment he announced last month that he did not intend to contest the Shadow Cabinet elections.

One of his principal reasons for quitting was that he had become "increasingly unhappy with London life". His new job will enable him to work near his Chesterfield home. His decision not to seek re-election to the Shadow Cabinet meant that he had renounced, at a com-



Mr Varley: Going home.

Passport charges increased

The fee for a standard 30-page passport will rise from £11 to £15 on Monday and in some cases the increases will be much greater.

The new fees announced yesterday include an increase in the cost of a standard 30-page passport also including particulars of a wife or husband from £11 to £22.50. A 94-page passport rises from £22 to £30 and a similar passport including particulars of a spouse from £22 to £45.

A collective passport, which usually covers group or school travel, will go up from £11 to £30 and a British visitor's passport, including particulars of a wife or husband, will cost £11.25 (old fee £5.50).

Greenham bill

The cost of policing Greenham Common air base is now more than £500 an hour. More than 300 officers are stationed there.

Bill to ban 'nasties' is unopposed

The Video Recordings Bill, a private member's measure designed to ban the commercial distribution of video "nasties", was given an unopposed second reading in the Commons yesterday with the backing of the Government and the Opposition.

The Bill's sponsor, Mr Graham Bright, Conservative MP for Luton South, said his main concern was to protect young people.

Mr David Mellor, Under Secretary of State at the Home Office, said that if a Bill had not been brought in by a backbencher, the Government would have acted.

Under the Bill videos will be classified and Mr Mellor made it clear that the British Board of Film Censors was the appropriate body to do this task.

The House was unusually crowded when Mr Bright opened the debate.

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Parliamentary report, page 4



Engineering chiefs want shopfloor changes before agreeing to increase pay

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Engineering employers turned the tables on trade union leaders yesterday by presenting a demand for substantial changes in shopfloor working practices before agreeing to talk about increased wages.

Leaders of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions received a comprehensive set of demands from the Engineering Employers Federation in reply to their proposal for big increases in pay and a shorter working week for 1,500,000 workers in the industry.

In a bargaining initiative that is likely to be a pattern across the private sector, the federation which represents 5,500 companies, responded with a detailed list of claims, arguing: "Our members will no longer accept that we make concessions at national level without the unions agreeing concessions in return."

After an adjournment, the unions' negotiators agreed to

open bargaining on that basis, and the employers made an offer of 4 per cent on basic rates, which would raise the minimum for a skilled man by £3.50 to £90.50 a week. The rate for labourers would rise by £2.50 a week to £55.10.

Mr James McFarlane, director-general of the federation, told the unions that any new national agreement should commit both sides to "removing all impediments to our being strong, competitive, profitable engineering industry capable of competing openly with the rest of the world's industrialized countries."

He added: "We need to make maximum use of plant and machinery by eliminating restrictive manning practices, by having full flexibility between and within other trades and occupations, and between supervisor and supervised."

"In future, with the need to make full use of expensive equipment there will be greater

need for running up to 168 hours a week arrangements which allow seasonal variations; greater flexibility in overtime working and so on."

The employers are also insisting on a clause that would make any improvements agreed at national level conditional on comparable savings through increased productivity in the factories. "There should be no obligation to implement until concessions had been made which enable the company to offset the cost", Mr McFarlane said.

"It seems to us that the pressures faced by the industry should compel us to search for common ground and break away, if we can, from some of the attitudes from our past."

The engineering pay talks were adjourned last night to a date to be fixed after the confederation unions rejected the employers' opening offer of 4 per cent rise.

Telecom union to renew action

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

The Post Office Engineering Union yesterday staged a display of defiance after its defeat in the courts earlier in the week and renewed its programme of selective strikes against the Government's privatization plans for British Telecom.

The union conference in Blackpool closed last night in a highly-charged atmosphere with the handing over of an interest-free loan of £500,000 from the Union of Communication Workers and the declaration that threatened dismissal next week of 49 telephone engineers would be met with "massive retaliation" by the union.

There were numerous standing ovations as speaker after speaker said the union would not be bowed by the injunction halting industrial action against the private enterprise Mercury Communications. A remarkable 10 minute procession around the conference hall by branch secretaries as they handed over cheques from local collections totalling almost £62,000

brought the conference to its feet.

But delegates were cautioned by Mr Bryan Stanley, the general secretary, against becoming carried away by the emotion of the occasion. He told them that there was a long and difficult fight ahead. Mr Stanley and other senior officials gave clear hints that in the near future the union would have to order back to work 1,400 engineers from the three international exchanges in London who have been on strike for five weeks.

That area of the dispute is costing the union £200,000 a week in strike pay.

Mr Alan Toffin, general secretary of the Union of Communication Workers said as he handed over the cheque for £500,000 that his union would also be participating in the campaign and the action would be extended to oppose any plans from the Government to privatize the Post Office.

Newspaper chain chief resigns

By Philip Robinson

Mr Gordon Linsacre has become chief executive of United Newspapers, the provincial newspaper, magazine and printing group, after the resignation of Mr Donald Anderson, joint managing director. Mr Anderson will receive about £150,000 compensation.

United Newspapers publish the Yorkshire Post, Middlesbrough Telegraph, Sheffield Telegraph, and a string of evening and weekly newspapers, mostly in the North.

Mr Anderson had been with United for about 30 years and had nearly three years of his service contract to run.

Mr Linsacre, deputy chairman and formerly joint managing director, said last night that the resignation arose from a breakdown change which would have left him without involvement in the day to day running of the newspapers.

"There has been no quarrel between Mr Anderson and myself."

The changes would have meant Mr Anderson looking after the printing, magazine publishing and retail interests.

Journalists at Mirror Group Newspapers are being encouraged by the National Union of Journalists to buy shares when the company is floated on the Stock Exchange next year.



Mr Linsacre: Nw chief executive

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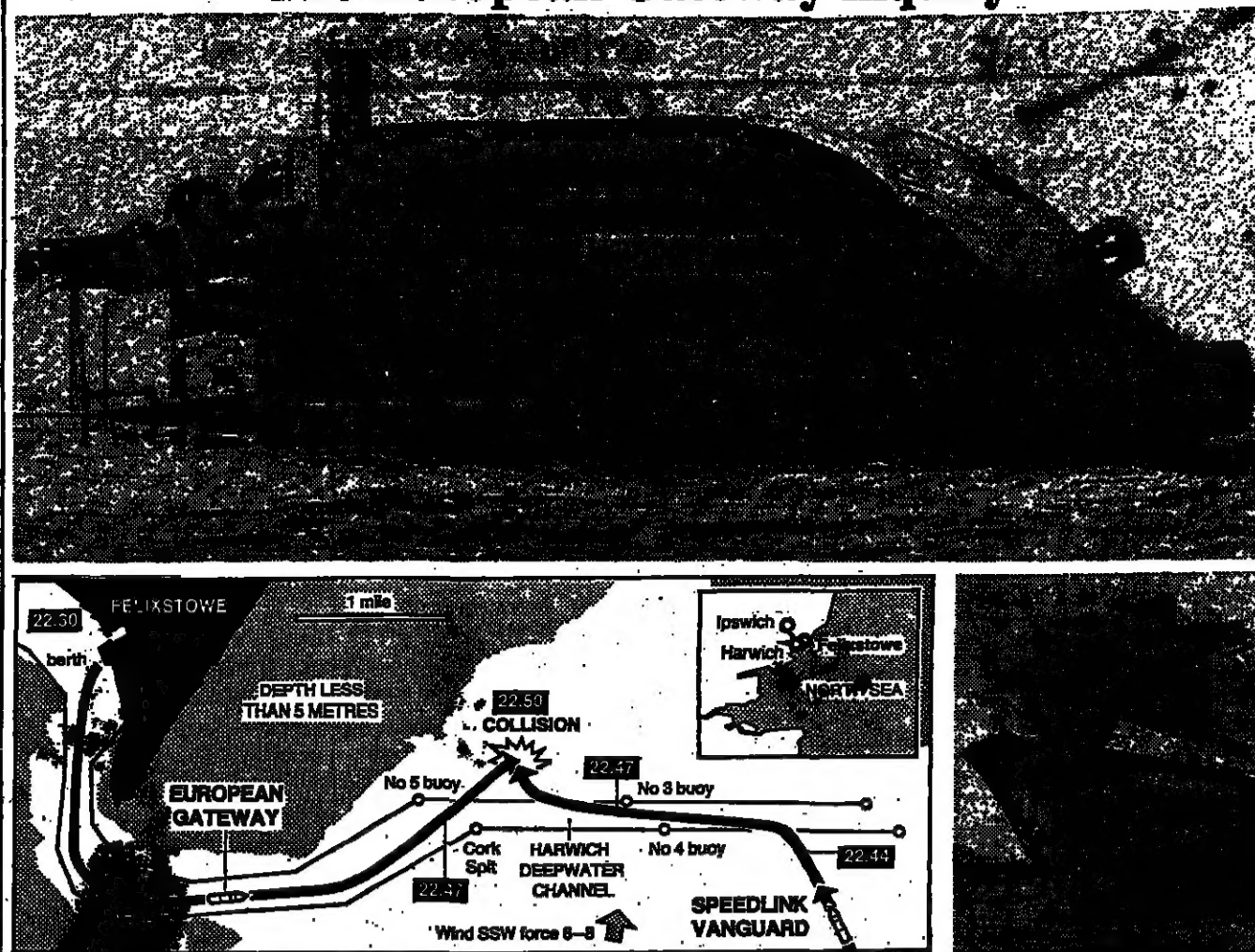
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The European Gateway inquiry



The course of the two ships towards collision in Harwich deepwater channel. Above: The capsized European Gateway. Right: The damage to the bow of the Speedlink Vanguard.

Vital questions to be answered

By Rupert Morris

Rules governing the opening and closing of watertight doors have emerged as one of the most vital issues in the ferry collision near Harwich last December which claimed six lives.

The public inquiry, which opened in London on Monday and is expected to last five weeks, aims to find out how the accident happened, who, if anyone, was to blame, and what can be done to prevent a recurrence.

On the night of December 19, the 3,514 ton Speedlink Vanguard, travelling towards Harwich, hit the 4,263 ton European Gateway, travelling in the opposite direction, amidships, making a large hole in its side. The European Gateway capsized as water flooded in through the open doorways and within 10 minutes the starboard side of the ferry was on the bottom in shallow water, four crew and two passengers were drowned.

Mr John Willmer QC, for the owners of the Speedlink Vanguard, told the inquiry that if the watertight doors of the European Gateway, which were

not power-operated, had been closed, the auxiliary engine-room would have flooded, but the ship and everyone aboard should have survived.

He said that with the three watertight doors open, the ship was not seaworthy. Either the ship's master and owners were in breach of regulations which require the doors to be closed except when necessary open for the working of the ship, or the regulations were not sufficiently tightly drawn or enforced.

Either way, the master should have had the doors closed as soon as he became aware of the risk of collision. Mr Willmer said. Loss of life might have been "astronomical" if there had been a full load of passengers and the collision had occurred in deep water.

The other main issue to be decided by the inquiry is how the collision occurred in spite of good visibility and modern radar equipment.

Evidence given to Department of Transport investigators shows that the Speedlink Vanguard moved to starboard out of the deep water channel leading into Harwich harbour,

to let the oncoming European Gateway pass on its port side.

The European Gateway was moving northwards out of the deepwater channel to avoid traffic. Captain Herbert McGibney, the master, radioed his intention to Harwich, but not sufficiently in advance, according to Mr John Reeder, for the Department of Transport.

The radio message was heard by the helmsman of the Speedlink Vanguard, but not relayed to its master, Captain John Bolton.

Captain McGibney, who assumed that his message had reached the Speedlink Vanguard, maintained his course. He told the inquiry that the aspect of his lights should have made his intentions clear.

Captain Bolton continued to head to starboard, assuming that the European Gateway would follow the channel course. "But there was no certainty of that happening", Mr Reeder said. He added that misjudgments had been compounded by poor lookout arrangements on the bridge of the European Gateway.

Bad lookout denied by captain

The master of the European Gateway denied yesterday that a bad lookout on his ship had led to the collision with the Sealink vessel Speedlink Vanguard.

Mr John Willmer, QC, for Sealink, put it to Captain Herbert McGibney: "Because of a bad lookout on your ship, you in fact passed far too close ahead of the Speedlink Vanguard and you ought to have altered to starboard down the channel?"

"That is definitely not the case. I would never endanger another vessel in such a manner," Captain McGibney replied.

Asked about the ship's watertight doors, which were open at the moment of collision, Captain McGibney said it would have taken at least five minutes to close the doors in an emergency.

He agreed with Mr Willmer that by the time he realized the danger of collision it was too late to shut the doors.

The hearing continues on Monday.

Heart unit doctors win reprieve from job cuts

By Nicholas Timmins, Health Services Correspondent

The Leeds Eastern Health Authority has decided not to cut eight junior doctors' jobs from its hospitals, which specialists had said would have had a catastrophic effect on a heart surgery unit that covers more than six million people.

But Mr Duncan Walker, consultant heart surgeon at Killingbeck Hospital, said that he had been told the jobs, including two in his unit, would still need to be "disestablished - a fancy term for cut".

"I feel like the little Dutch boy with his finger in the dam."

The decision to cut four of the fifteen junior posts at Killingbeck Hospital in heart

surgery and chest medicine, had been taken by the district management team without consultation, he said.

Mr Walker said that he had been told that because of spending cuts the amount spent on junior doctors' overtime was to be reduced from £720,000 to £150,000 a year, but that could take two to three years to achieve.

The authority had, therefore, decided to cut eight jobs, two in the heart unit, two in chest medicine in a unit that also deals with lung cancer, and one each in psychiatry, accident and emergency, obstetrics and anaesthetics.

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Court delay in Dimbleby dispute

The legal dispute between Mr David Dimbleby's newspaper group and the National Union of Journalists (NUJ) over a strike at his west London newspaper took a new turn in the High Court yesterday.

The NUJ was given time to file evidence in support of its contention that the strike is in furtherance of its long-standing dispute with T. Bailey Forman, the non-union publisher, and that the union is therefore immune from legal action by Dimbleby and Sons.

Sir Neil Lawson, ruling on the Dimbleby group's application for an interim injunction banning the strike, said that on the evidence presented so far there appeared to be a genuine trade dispute under the Employment Act, 1982.

He adjourned his judgment until Friday to allow the union to file evidence that TBF Printers, which is printing the Dimbleby newspapers, is associated with T. Bailey Forman.

The judge said that the NUJ strike instruction to the 13 journalists came after the company transferred the printing of the newspapers to the Richmond and Twickenham Times group to TBF Printers in Nottingham after a dispute with the previous printers.

T. Bailey Forman had been blacked by the NUJ since the 1979 provincial newspaper strike.

No contempt action on Nilsen reports

The Attorney General, Sir Michael Havers, is to take no action against six newspapers which published background stories on Dennis Nilsen before the jury at the Central Criminal Court trying him in charges of murder and attempted murder had delivered his verdict.

Sir Michael announced yesterday that he did not consider the articles constituted contempt of court.

The newspapers concerned were: The Standard a London evening newspaper, and The Sun, Daily Star, Daily Mirror, Daily Mail and Daily Express.

His statement said:

The Attorney General has considered whether background articles in connection with the prosecution of Dennis Nilsen, which were published in the Standard of 3 November 1983, and in five national newspapers the following day, constituted contempt of court and has concluded that the nature of the material published

Another 'informer' retracts

From Richard Ford Belfast

The RUC's use of informers received another setback last night when an alleged Provisional IRA "supergrass" retracted statements he made implicating 11 people in serious terrorist crimes.

William Skelly, aged 37, from the Whitehall area of west Belfast, made affidavits which the Director of Public Prosecutions is studying.

He also withdrew his own alleged confession to the murder of constable Samuel Vallety in a rocket attack in Belfast more than two years ago. Mr Skelly was not granted immunity.

He was the man who implicated Robert Lean, who himself named 28 people before retracting last month. Mr Skelly is the sixth informer to retract statements.

Clothing firm 'a fire hazard'

Fire officers found portable electric fires standing next to inflammable material and joss sticks burning everywhere at J and R Clothing, Birmingham, magistrates were told by West Midlands County Council yesterday. Stairs were blocked with combustible material.

The firm, employing 22 machinists in a converted two-story house in Aston, was ordered to be closed under Section 10 of the Fire Precautions Act, 1981.

Yard crackdown on kerb crawlers

Scotland Yard is considering following the example set by Nottingham police and prosecuting kerb crawlers seeking prostitutes in London.

Two men who attempted to pick up prostitutes in Tooting, south London, were prosecuted successfully recently under the Metropolitan Police Act, 1829, for a breach of the peace. Nottingham police have used a 600-year-old Act to prosecute kerb crawlers.

'Cross-frontier' insurance

Allianz aims for an uncommon market

Four out of ten cross-Channel lorry drivers defy load limit

By David Cross

Four out of ten European lorries checked as they crossed Kent from the Channel ports have been found to be overloaded, in spite of the recent increase in their permissible maximum weight.

Spot checks by Kent County Council trading standards department since May 1, when maximum weights were increased from 32.5 to 38 tonnes, showed 27.5 per cent of lorries on the A2 between Dover and Canterbury, 16 of 18 lorries checked were found to be overweight and 10 of their drivers were fined.

In another memorable case an Irish driver carrying grapes from Italy through Britain to Ireland was fined £600 in Kent for a four-tonne overload. Instead of unloading his lorry he continued on his way to Holyhead, where he was stopped again and fined another £800 for being overweight and £500 for defying a driving prohibition order.

According to a spokesman for the Kent trading standards department, British drivers are just as bad as continental ones. Of 1,936 British lorries checked during the past six months, 861 were overloaded.

About 2,000 lorries a day cross the Channel via Dover bringing goods from the Continent.

Dismissal by Scargill is upheld

A former National Union of Mineworkers secretary, who claimed that he was unfairly dismissed by Mr Arthur Scargill, the union president, lost his case at an industrial tribunal in London yesterday.

Miss Mary Nolan, aged 27, of Rotherfield Street, Islington, north London, was dismissed on February 7 this year, her first day back from her annual holiday, after she refused to meet Mr Scargill or the union's chief executive, Mr Donald Loney, without a shop steward being present, the tribunal was told.

At yesterday's resumed hearing Miss Caroline Underhill, Miss Nolan's counsel, told the tribunal that the dismissal arose because of a misunderstanding between Miss Nolan, now a politics student at Sussex University, and her employer.

At the earlier hearing in February, Mr Scargill told the tribunal that in August last year Miss Nolan had requested a transfer.

She was eventually transferred to a position as a "hostess secretary" under the general direction of the head of administration.

Mr Scargill had said that Miss Nolan subsequently refused to carry out her tasks on several occasions. In February, on returning from holiday, she took her typewriter to the top floor of the union's offices in London. She remained there, refusing to return to her place of work in spite of approaches from Mr Trevor Bell head of the Colliery Officials and Staff, the national white-collar section of the union.

Motorists invite thieves

By Clifford Web

One in six of 700 parked cars checked by a team of Automobile Association officials and police had an open door or window, or both. A thief's hand would have included 39 stereo units, three CB radio transmitters, three typewriters, a photocopier, a mountain of cassettes, and 16 tool kits.

Of 100 cars parked on a private housing estate in the South-east no fewer than 40 offered "an open invitation to thieves".

Reporting this yesterday, the Automobile Association said: "If this is the measure of motorists' carelessness in the late autumn, then the run-up to Christmas, when most people are even more preoccupied and more liable to leave goodies for the taking on the back seat, promises to be a bonanza for the auto-criminal."

It points out that in a typically busy shopping centre such as Golders Green, Surrey, official figures show that thefts from cars increase by 30 per cent in December.

But the AA also admits that locking car doors is not as secure as many people believe.

It quotes the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders as saying that if cars had virtually thief-proof locks, they would present a big problem to the large number of owners who regularly lock themselves out.

The AA estimates that at least 210,000 motorists do that every year.



Agony and ecstasy: Vernon Handley rehearsing yesterday for his first concert as associate conductor of the London Philharmonic Orchestra. The concert at the Festival Hall on Monday will feature works by Sir Arnold Bax, John McCabe and Robert Simpson (Photographs: Harry Kerr)

Higher education cuts

By Our Education Correspondent

Art college mergers are shelved

A proposal to merge Maidstone and Canterbury art colleges and Bath College of Art with Bristol Polytechnic has been postponed for one year while a review takes place, it was decided this week.

But proposals for cuts in courses at other colleges funded by local authorities are to go before the committee of the National Advisory Body (NAB) for Local Authority Higher Education next week. These would result in the closure of certain institutions, including Nounington College in Kent, and the merger of others, specifically Hertfordshire College with Hatfield Polytechnic.

It is understood that, contrary to speculation, West Midlands College of Higher Education would not necessarily close. The advisory body's board is recommending that the college's diversified course be shut down but not the teacher-training courses.

Mr John Bevan, the board's secretary, refused to say yesterday whether any more colleges

were likely to close because of the recommendations based on a cut of 10 per cent in local authority higher education spending in 1984-85.

Student numbers will not decline. Instead, polytechnics and colleges will be asked to take 17,000 more students than last year. The NAB plan now proposes a target of 259,700 places next academic year.

The contraction of public-sector higher education is being managed on the basis of several priorities: a shift from arts and social sciences towards science and business studies; that there is an emphasis on part-time and sub-degree work; and the concentration of higher education in the big institutions.

A separate exercise is being conducted by the Inner London Education Authority. A discussion paper from its education officer, Mr William Stubbs, looks at the merger of Thames Polytechnic and Avery Hill College and between St Martin's School of Art and the

Central School of Art and Science.

There were angry reactions at this week's NAB board meeting to an exercise conducted by the Council for National Academic Awards which ranked town planning department in order of supposed quality. The exercise divides the departments into three groups.

In the first group are Birmingham Polytechnic, Coventry Polytechnic, Oxford Polytechnic, the Polytechnic of Central London, and the South Bank Polytechnic; in the second group Bristol Polytechnic, Chelmer and Gloucestershire colleges; in the third group Leeds Polytechnic, Liverpool Polytechnic and Trent Polytechnic.

Race guidelines

Head teachers in Bradford are to be sent official guidelines from the city council setting out how to tackle racialist behaviour and asking them to keep a record of any incidents.

Rebel GP opposes pill for youngsters

By Thomson Press, Medical Reporter

Family doctors should not prescribe contraceptives for young teenage girls, although the Department of Health and Social Security allows them to do so and is supported by the British Medical Association, a "rebel" GP said yesterday.

Dr Adrian Rogers, a leading campaigner for change in department guidelines on contraceptives, added: "We have tried the permissive society and the result has been a huge human disaster."

In an article in the association's *News Review*, Dr Rogers, who is in practice in Exeter, said: "The vast majority of the public disapprove. They see sexually active children of a permissive society, which has eroded childhood to such a state that no one cares about the behaviour of these children."

"Children need care and protection and never contraception, and if contraception clinics were prevented from seeing under-age children, this country would begin to produce a healthier environment for children."

Dr Rogers said yesterday that he supports the campaign of Mrs Victoria Gillick to stop

doctors giving the pill to girls under 16 without their parents' consent.

The campaign has the backing of more than 200 MPs, including Dr Gerald Vaughan, the former Minister for Health, who met Mrs Gillick yesterday and then presented a petition to the Commons on behalf of his constituents in Reading East.

Dr Vaughan was Minister for Health in 1980 when the department issued the circular giving doctors advice on contraceptive prescription. He said: "So far there have been 372 petitions to the House of Commons, repeating the views of well over half a million people. I am glad to be associated with these petitions."

Mr Kenneth Clarke, the present Minister for Health, announced earlier this week that the Government may review the guidelines, pending an appeal by Mrs Gillick against a High Court ruling on her attempts to make them illegal.

Last night Dr Rogers said: "Doctors do not have a simple choice between prescribing the pill to young girls, or doing nothing. There are alternatives."

£15m plan to redevelop rail station

By Christopher Warman

Work will start next week on a £15m redevelopment of Watford Junction station, which was built more than 100 years ago. The development will provide a new station and about 75,000 sq ft of air-conditioned offices.

The first stage will be to provide a temporary station for British Rail. The whole project should be completed in February, 1986.

Mr Gavin Simpson, managing director of British Rail Property Board, said yesterday that British Rail had wanted to redevelop Watford station, which is used by 7,000 passengers a day, for some time. "It is an important Inter-City and commuter station, and the existing buildings are no longer able to meet the requirements either of today or the future."

A multi-story car park with 250 spaces and a bus interchange are also planned.

The scheme is a partnership between the British Rail property board, Hunting Game Developments Ltd, and Norwich Union Insurance.

Sentence in black magic case upheld

A 14-year jail sentence on a man involved in "black magic" sex ceremonies with children was upheld by the Court of Appeal in London yesterday.

The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, said Malcolm Smith, who told his victims they would have magical powers through sex, was "not only a very wicked man, but very dangerous".

The court dismissed an appeal by Smith, aged 29, unemployed, of Southgate, Sutton Hill, Telford, against the sentence passed last November at Northampton Crown Court for offences including rape and unlawful sexual intercourse.

The court cut the 10-year sentence of Smith's co-accused at Northampton, Albert Hickman, aged 35, a fireman, of Chockley's Meadow, Telford, to eight years.

Smuggler had swallowed drug

A Spaniard, Jorge Castro, aged 29, was jailed for five years at the Crown Court in Chichester, West Sussex, yesterday after he admitted smuggling cocaine valued at £76,500 into Gatwick airport from South America.

The court was told that he swallowed 150 small capsules, the size of grapes, containing the drug. Arrested by customs officials at Gatwick, he was examined by a doctor and kept under observation for two-and-a-half days until all the capsules had been recovered.

Hutchinson gets new lawyer

Arthur Hutchinson, accused of murdering Mr and Mrs Basil Laitner and Mr Richard Laitner, their son, will be represented in future by Mr Kerry MacGill, the solicitor who acted for Peter Sutcliffe, the Yorkshire Ripper, rather than a Sheffield solicitor.

Mr Hutchinson, aged 42, of no fixed address, made a three-minute appearance before Sheffield magistrates yesterday and was remanded in custody until December 2.

Pirate video tapes burnt

A thousand pirate video cassette tapes valued at more than £70,000 were burnt yesterday by the film industry's video piracy "flying squad" led by Mr Peter Duffy, the former head of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad.

The tapes, seized from shops in raids all over the country, were put into an incinerator at Edmonton, north London. In the past 10 months 21,000 pirate tapes have been seized.

Webster guilty

Martin Webster, National Front organizer, aged 39, of Croydon, yesterday lost his appeal at Birmingham Crown Court against a conviction for organizing a march without giving the police the route. He must pay a further £500 legal costs.

Glasgow centre

The Strathclyde Regional Council's planning committee yesterday approved a £40m shopping and leisure complex which will give a new concert hall to Glasgow city centre and replace St Andrew's Halls destroyed by fire in 1962.

Speeding duke

The Duke of Westminster, aged 32, was fined £200 at Newport Pagnell yesterday for driving his Aston Martin Lagonda at 106.7mph on the M1 near Gayhurst, in Buckinghamshire, in May. His licence was endorsed three points and he was ordered to pay £10 costs.

Radiation fear

A worker at British Nuclear Fuels' Sellafield reprocessing plant in West Cumbria who has been contaminated by radioactive material has been withdrawn from normal duties pending further investigations.

Solicitor jailed

James Davies, aged 65, a solicitor of Bromley, Kent, was jailed for 18 months by the High Court in Greenock yesterday after being found guilty of six charges of embezzling £42,000 of clients' money.

'Kidnapped' family died in car crash

From Our Correspondent

A mother and her three children died in a road crash after being kidnapped by her former husband, it was said yesterday at an inquest into the crash on the A1 at Mickfield, Yorkshire, last July.

Mr David Broton's car was heading north when he lost control and careered into the path of another car.

Mrs Patricia Broton, aged 31, and her sons, Karl, aged 11, Wayne, aged nine and Toby, aged six, of Souththorpe, died of multiple injuries. Mr Broton suffered serious injuries.

The inquest at Castleford was told that Mr Broton had left his family six months before to move to Stokesley, near Middlesbrough. His wife had divorced him.

In a statement read to the inquest, Mr Colin Salmon, of Souththorpe, said he moved in with Mrs Broton shortly after her husband left. On July 11 Mr Broton arranged to see his family.

A verdict of accidental death was recorded.

Nurse wins right to challenge sacking

A psychiatric hospital nurse who was dismissed after a dispute between nurses and doctors on the legality of giving treatment to an objecting patient won the right yesterday to proceed with a High Court challenge to the validity of his dismissal.

In a preliminary ruling Mr Justice Hodgson said he was astonished that East Berkshire Health Authority should raise preliminary objections to allegations by Mr Paul Walsh being heard in the High Court.

"The public is concerned that the nurses who serve the public should be treated lawfully and fairly by the public authority employing them," the judge said.

"I am astonished that a public authority, charged with unlawful and unfair conduct, should raise any objections to these charges being heard in this court."

In his pending High Court action Mr Walsh, a senior nursing officer, of Burnham, Buckinghamshire, is alleging that his dismissal from the staff of Wexham Park Hospital, Slough, was unlawful and that he had been treated "oppressively".

He is seeking orders quashing his dismissal and is requiring his reinstatement.

Mr Justice Hodgson said in a reserved judgment that the fact that Mr Walsh had not earlier disclosed that he had filed an "unfair dismissal" claim to an industrial tribunal did not stop him proceeding with a case in the High Court.

The hospital authority, ordered to pay the costs of the preliminary hearing, indicated that it would probably take the matter to the Court of Appeal.

Sphinx beard fragment to be given back

By Richard Dowling

Britain is to return to Egypt the fragment of the Sphinx's beard which has lain in the British Museum for the past 165 years.

Details of when or where it is to go have not been completed, but it is understood that it will go to a museum and not be reattached to the Sphinx.

The request for the return of the beard fragment was first made last year when Mr Abdul Hamid Radwan, the Egyptian Minister of Culture, visited Britain.

The fragment, a lump of limestone which stands about 28 high, represents about a tenth of the plaited beard which originally supported the 4,000-year-old head. It was given to the British Museum in 1818 by a naval captain and has spent most of the time in the reserve collection in the basement. Now it is being returned on long-term loan.

It is understood that in return the British Museum hopes the Egyptians will lend it the stone body of a mythical beast of which the museum already possesses the head.

Campaigns by countries, mostly former British colonies, to get back their cultural heritage from British museums have been gathering momentum but the only successful

£80,000 Shergar ransom missing

From Our Correspondent

The disappearance in July of an £80,000 ransom for the horse Shergar is being investigated by the Irish police.

The police said yesterday that a package containing money had been given by a detective in co Clare to a farmer, who was to act as intermediary.

The farmer told the police that he left a sum of money in a car boot so that if Shergar was returned the ransom could be collected.

When he returned to the car, the money had vanished. The detective is reported to have told investigators that he did not know what was in the package.

Shergar, valued at £10m, was stolen from Ballymanny stud, co Kildare on February 8. Last month, the police searched a house in co Clare and found letters referring to Shergar and mentioning money.

A team of detectives then investigated the £80,000 ransom reports. It is understood that they cleared the Shergar square of involvement in the transaction.

The money is reported to have been handed over to an Irish policeman by Shergar's veterinary surgeon, Mr Stan Cosgrove, last July in co Clare. The policeman, not involved in the Shergar squad, was said to be acting as an intermediary with a third party who claimed to have information about where Shergar was.

Mr Cosgrove described the report yesterday as a fairy tale. "No sum was ever passed. There might have been mention of money to get back the horse but that would be as far as it would go."

But an official Irish police statement said: "We are investigating the disappearance of a sum of £80,000 which had been made available as a ransom for the recovery of Shergar and which is stated to have been stolen from the boot of a car in co Clare last July."

Climbers' oxygen warning

By Ronald Faux

Research showing that high-altitude mountaineering may be unexpectedly dangerous to all but a few super-fit humans has been produced for the Mount Everest Foundation. It follows a year of exceptionally high losses in the Himalayas, including the disappearance of Peter Boardman and Joe Tasker on Everest.

The findings are certain to influence future decisions by the foundation in sponsoring small, Alpine-style expeditions aiming to climb the highest summits in the world without using supplementary oxygen.

According to Mr Michael Ward, a specialist in high-altitude medicine, doctor on the 1953 Everest expedition and a experienced Himalayan climber, the research shows that many mountaineers would be climbing towards certain death if they forced their bodies on at altitudes above 8,000 metres.

The research combines work done on expeditions to Everest and Chinese Central Asia and a physiological evaluation of Reinhold Messner, the mountaineer from South Tyrol who has twice climbed Everest and nine other of the world's highest summits without extra oxygen.

Mr Ward, who was awarded the Founder's Medal of the Royal Geographical Society for work on high-altitude medicine and is a member of the foundation's screening committee, said: "We now have a much more certain measure of how climbers will perform at altitude and we will take that evidence, their past experience and the scale of what they plan to attempt into account."

In plain terms the air pressure on the top of Everest is about a third the pressure at sea level and it is therefore very much harder for a climber to fill his lungs with the oxygen necessary to give him energy, to fend off frostbite and hypother-



Oxygen cine: The death of Peter Boardman (top), may be explained by new research which involved Tyrolean climber Reinhold Messner (below).

mis and to prevent degeneration of particularly sensitive areas as the brain.

Those difficulties can be overcome simply by using oxygen from a cylinder strapped to the climber's back but that is generally slower and adds enormously to the cost of an expedition. Since most of the world's highest mountaineers now climb without the prop of an oxygen cylinder and because the saving in cost brings Himalayan climbing within the reach of less wealthy pockets, "oxygen free" ascents have become more popular.

The formula devised for assessing a climber's performance is to measure oxygen intake per minute against body weight. "Chris Bonington, who said it would have been impossible for him to climb beyond the region of 26,000ft had a score in the low 50s. Boardman and Tasker were in the 60s and they had already climbed to 28,000ft without oxygen on Kanchenjunga, the world's third highest peak. Messner and Peter Habeler, who were first to climb Everest without oxygen, both scored 75. "It means that a person with a higher figure can fill his lungs more fully and convert that air into energy at a better rate," Mr Ward said.

A man with a 50 mark would have to work much closer to exhaustion to produce the same energy as a man on 75. That would make him far more vulnerable to cold and to making faulty decisions. It would also slow him down when a speedy return to lower altitude might be essential to save his life.

"If you do not have enough oxygen you cannot work properly. You cannot produce the heat needed and your body begins to cool down so that you suffer frostbite even though you are still moving. It may be that Mallory and Irvine and Boardman and Tasker were simply overwhelmed by cold and a lack of oxygen and that caused their loss rather than a fall," Mr Ward said.

He added that a high ability to convert air into energy was something a person was either born with or not although training might improve that ability by 10 per cent.

● Sir Ranulph Fiennes, the explorer, whose Transglobe expedition took him to the North and South Poles, will head the Antarctic section of Operation Raleigh, an expedition around the world in 1986 (the Press Association reports).

Clergyman prays for a divine veto on club

A Baptist minister has held a 14-hour day of prayer at his chapel in Exeter, Devon, in an intervention to prevent a private businessmen's club being opened beneath a message parlour.

The Rev Roy Shearman said afterwards: "I have every confidence that our prayers will be answered. I am concerned at having satisfied one kind of appetite with a meal at the club the businessmen could go upstairs and satisfy another."

Mr Shearman said that most villagers in Pentyrch, Mid Glamorgan, oppose the plan, which will be considered on Tuesday by councillors.

"It is quite the wrong sort of establishment for a sleepy village like this. I am worried that opening this club will attract even more people to the message parlour and turn the area into a mini Soho."

About 700 villagers have signed a petition opposing the plan and the opposition includes the community council and Women's Institute.

Peer's mother dies in fire at country house

Amy Lady Biddulph, mother of Lord Biddulph, died in a fire yesterday at Underdown, her country house near Ledbury, Hereford and Worcester.

The fire, which badly damaged the house, is thought to have started from a grate.

Lady Biddulph who was in her late seventies, was the widow of the third Lord Biddulph. Her younger son, the Hon Edward Biddulph and her housekeeper both escaped.

One of her friends, Mrs Elizabeth Harvey-Bathurst, of Eastnor Castle, Ledbury, said: "She was a great worker for local charities and was always allowing her house and gardens to be used for fund-raising events."

Steam shares

The Severn Valley Railway has launched a £300,000 share issue to help to finance an extension of steam services to Kidderminster, which will create an interchange with British Rail by next year.

Killer youth must do 150 hours of work

A youth was ordered by the Central Criminal Court yesterday to do 150 hours of community service for killing a man during a brawl at a party.

Andrew Gordon, aged 18, of Islington, north London, admitted the manslaughter of Roy Armstrong, aged 22, an engineer.

The court was told that Gordon had become caught up in violence not of his own making. He had reached out for a kitchen knife and waved it "blindly" to protect himself, but did not mean to stab anyone. Judge Gibbons, QC, told Gordon: "I think it is justifiable in your case in not imposing a custodial sentence."

Turkey's new man talks to The Times

Ozal indicates change of policy on applying for EEC membership

Turkey does not aim to become a member of the European Community if the price is too heavy, Mr Turgut Ozal, who is expected to take over as Prime Minister later this month, told *The Times*.

Mr Ozal said that he was not committed to make an application for full membership, and that he intended to review the situation before taking a decision.

These statements, which will come as a relief to many officials and policy-makers in a Community already struggling with the Spanish and Portuguese applications, represent a retreat from recent Turkish policy.

In 1980, the last elected

From Edward Mortimer, Ankara

government, in which Mr Ozal served as Under-Secretary to the Prime Minister, announced its intention to apply for full membership. Since then the military regime has maintained that Turkey would apply as soon as parliamentary democracy was restored.

Mr Ozal brushed aside the decisions of European and Nato parliamentary assemblies to reject the Turkish elections in advance as unrepresentative. "I think they will change their decisions now, after they have seen the results", he said, alluding to his own victory over the military-backed Nationalist Democracy Party.

His own party should not be blamed, he added, for the

exclusion of other parties from the poll. The extended social democratic and "right wing" parties would be allowed to compete in next year's local elections, he said.

There were similarities between his ideas and the economic policies of Mrs Thatcher's Government. Mr Ozal agreed, but he believed that Turkey would not have to wait until inflation was under control before seeing a drop in unemployment.

Mr Ozal was clearly anxious to say nothing that would offend Turkey's present rulers. When I suggested that his aim was to defeat "military and civilian bureaucracy" in Turkey, he quickly corrected me: "Not military, civilian...".

He also defended the military regime's record on human rights, claiming that this question had been "too much exaggerated by Amnesty International".

Mr Ozal insisted, however, that his government would be responsible for all areas of policy, including foreign affairs and defence.

I asked if there was any significance in the fact that the map of Turkey used as a symbol by his Motherland Party includes northern Cyprus. He said there was not. "You see, if we had not shown Cyprus, some people would have said 'why did you not show Cyprus?'".

But did he regard Cyprus as part of the Turkish Motherland? "No state declares its independence," he will support them because they have waited so long. If a solution could be found, they have every right, whatever they do."

Military rulers put final touches to their legacy

From Rasit Gardilek, Ankara

Turkey's outgoing military regime continued yesterday to introduce measures designed to ensure that its three years in power are not quickly forgotten by its civilian successors.

Marital law was extended on Thursday for four more months, and yesterday a new press law went into force to complement a series of laws to limit the activities of political parties, trade unions and associations.

The press law, while increasing the penalties for offenders, abolishes special courts for the media and allows the courts or prosecutors to order temporary closures (a form of punishment most of the big papers suffered under military rule), the seizure of papers before distribution and even the confiscation of

their printing equipment if they should offend against ill-defined "national interests" or "official secrets".

The military also pressed, apparently with success, to have Mr Bulend Ulusu, the Prime Minister, chosen as Speaker of the new Parliament, to which he was elected on the ticket of the defeated Nationalist Democracy Party. The post is more than an honorary one as its holder deputises for the President when he is out of the country.

For parties disqualified from Sunday's elections there was belated solace in the withdrawal by Admiral Nejat Tuxen, a member of the National Security Council, of a proposal for his exclusion also from next year's municipal elections.

Brazil to strengthen African links

From Patrick Knight, Sao Paulo

President Joao Figueiredo leaves for a week's trip to five African countries on Monday, the first visit to Africa by a Brazilian head of state. He will spend two days each in Nigeria, Senegal and Algeria and will pay flying calls to Portuguese-speaking Guinea Bissau and Cape Verde.

Brazil's relations with Africa have been one of the main casualties of recent hard economic times. In both this and the previous administration, the Foreign Ministry has been anxious to develop political links with other nations of the Third World - the "South" - with the aim of building up the political and economic bargaining strength of the block vis-à-vis the industrial world. Links with Africa have also been encouraged by Brazil's wish to become the leader of the Portuguese speaking world, notably by developing links with Angola and Mozambique despite ideological differences.

Until 18 months ago, the political initiatives were encouraged by booming trade with



President Figueiredo: Seeking to revive the boom.

Africa becoming one of Brazil's most promising markets.

From the beginning this Third World Policy attracted strong criticism from those feeling that Brazil's star must be firmly hitched to the United States and Western Europe.

All the financial crisis of the past couple of years was increasingly felt both here and

in Africa, this point of view gained considerable ground, particularly as Brazil's exports to the US have been almost the only ones not to decline in the past couple of years.

However, details of a reciprocal agreement are being worked out with Nigeria, under which each country will open a credit line worth \$1bn for the goods of the other.

Volkswagen cars made in Brazil are already assembled in Lagos. Algeria has been a big market for Brazilian motor vehicles, as well as for civil construction contracts, and is seen as the most promising market in North Africa.

The enthusiasm of the first phase of links with Africa is being replaced by a much more pragmatic, country-by-country approach. While Brazil's financial constraints will exclude the generous supplies of credit arrangements by which experts to such countries as Angola and Mozambique were made possible but President Figueiredo's visit shows that the Third World is by no means out of the running.

Italian casinos raided in big crackdown

Milan (AP) - more than 2,000 customs and security agents have raided Italy's four gambling houses in a crackdown on criminals engaged in recycling "dirty money".

After blocking exits, armed police verified the identities of hundreds of gamblers in the casinos of San Remo, St Vincent, Campione and Venice (all in northern Italy), checked serial numbers of banknotes the customers changed for "chips" and seized the accounts.

Police closed the casino in Campione.

Seventeen arrests were made

Friends again in Asean

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

The Thai and Singapore Foreign Ministers acted yesterday to repair damage to the unity of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean) and to its relations with Australia caused by disputes arising from changes to Australian policies on Cambodia and Vietnam.

Mr Supphah Dhanabalan, Singapore's Foreign Minister, who has been at the centre of the row, telephoned Air Chief Marshal Siddhi Savetisila, the Thai Foreign Minister, and assured him that he had never made remarks which have angered Australia and Thailand.

A foreign ministry spokesman

said Mr Dhanabalan claimed he had been misreported and had promised to supply an accurate transcript of his remarks.

He was reported to have accused Mr Bill Hayden, the Australian Foreign Minister, of "bending over backwards to please Vietnam", a remark which Mr Hayden described as offensive and unacceptable.

The dispute arose last month when Australia refused to cosponsor Asean's resolution on Cambodia at the United Nations, although Australia later voted for the resolution in the General Assembly.



Tea break: Mr and Mrs Nakasone entertaining President and Mrs Reagan in traditional Japanese style.

Reagan the conciliator woos Diet

From David Watts, Tokyo

Perched uncomfortably on a straw mat floor and wielding his chop sticks with more courage than skill, President Reagan capped an extraordinarily personal visit to Japan yesterday with lunch in the ambience of Camp David.

Having provided his guests with traditional padded jackets to keep out the autumn chill seeping in from the surrounding bamboo groves, Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Japanese Prime Minister, served Mr and Mrs Reagan tea - the traditional preliminary purifying ceremony before personal exchanges of great moment - in his mountain farm retreat.

The Prime Minister congratulated his friend Ron on his speech to a joint session of the Diet, the first by an American President. He could well congratulate himself on the success

with which the Japanese have made the Reagans feel at home and projected the image of a close personal relationship around the world and more specifically at Moscow.

Who can doubt from the pictures of a beaming Ron and Yasu that the President is anything less than a Pacific president and that there is anything less than complete unanimity on the two countries' approach to world peace and prosperity.

The President earned credit for his Diet speech aimed at alleviating concern that he was a president ready to go to war, not least with nuclear weapons.

The only value in possessing nuclear weapons is to make sure they can't be used - ever.

He received a roar of approval when he renewed a promise to take Asian interests

into account in nuclear missile negotiations with the Soviet Union: "I am very conscious of our negotiating responsibility on issues that concern the safety and well being of the Japanese people. Let me make one thing very plain: we must not and we will not accept any agreement that transfers the threat of longer-range nuclear missiles from Europe to Asia."

He was less successful in trying to render into Japanese "Japanese-American friendship is forever" - which was unintelligible.

The speech, which drew heavily on Japanese poets and writers, was a skilful compilation which will certainly leave more positive impressions behind in Japan than his over-drawn images of Japan as an exact replica of American democracy, which is neither

true nor something Japan desires. The relationship between the two leaders has established is so personal that it is causing concern to Japanese editorial writers who have not yet forgotten the individualism of Mr Nakasone's pledge to make Japan an unshakable aircraft carrier during his visit to the United States earlier this year.

With elections expected before the end of the year Mr Nakasone has gambled heavily that friendship with the American President will see him through, but that personal relationship should not be mistaken for Japan-US relations - the Japanese Ministry of Finance is already pouring cold water on what has been billed as the principal economic achievement of the visit, the plans for the strengthening of the yen.

Man who hated blacks to hang for murder

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

A white man who shot dead three Africans at a railway station earlier this year because he "hated blacks" was sentenced to death by hanging yesterday, the mandatory penalty for murder in South Africa if there are no extenuating circumstances.

Although the death penalty is frequently imposed in South Africa, it is rare for a white to be hung for the murder of blacks. It has only happened in a handful of cases. Conversely, blacks are nearly always executed for the murder, or even rape, of whites.

On April 17, Mr Pieter de Beer, aged 21, and his brother, Zacharias de Beer, 19, boarded the night train for Johannesburg at Pietersburg station in Transvaal Province and lured five black passengers into an unoccupied compartment.

There Pieter de Beer emptied a revolver at point-blank range into the five men, killing three and wounding two. The original plan had been that when Pieter had fired six shots, he would

toss the revolver to Zacharias, who would reload and take his turn.

Zacharias said he had gone along, intending to shoot some blacks as well, "because I always do what my brother tells me". In the event, after five shots had been fired, Pieter decided that what they had done was wrong, and the two brothers, handed, themselves over to the police.

The judge at the Pietersburg circuit court sentenced Zacharias to a total of 46 years in prison on three charges of murder and two of attempted murder, but he will only serve 12 years as some of the sentences will run concurrently.

During the trial, it was argued on behalf of the brothers that Pieter had been affected by some brandy he had drunk just before the shooting, and that both brothers were "emotionally immature" and unable to handle resentments that had built up during an unhappy childhood.

Sri Lanka and India work out deal on Tamils

From Our Correspondent, Colombo

A package to increase the autonomy of the minority Tamils in Sri Lanka has been worked out between India and Sri Lanka.

Its main features are devolution of power through the creation of regional councils in each of the existing nine provinces within the framework of a unitary state with the port of Trincomalee in the eastern province being administered directly by the central Government.

The package was worked out during four days of discussions between the Home Secretary and Mr G. P. Parthasarathy, the Indian special envoy.

Punjab village leader killed by gunman

Delhi (Reuters) - Unidentified gunmen killed a member of the ruling Congress (I) Party yesterday in the Punjab.

Police sources said three suspected Sikh extremists in a car shot Mr Surjan Singh, who was a village leader at Nagoke, which is 35 miles from Amritsar.

Security forces raided suspected extremist hideouts in Amritsar after the shooting.

Frequent violence has erupted in the Punjab during demonstrations organized by the state's main opposition party, the militant Akali Dal, to back demands for political autonomy and religious concessions.



Tickertape funeral: Reynaldo Galman, aged 10, sitting beside his father's coffin on the way to the cemetery.

Manila funeral protest

Manila (Reuters) - Rolando Galman, the alleged assassin of Benigno Aquino, the Philippine opposition leader, was buried yesterday after a six-hour funeral procession which turned into a protest march against the Marcos regime.

Thousands of people poured into the streets as the open hearse carrying the coffin

passed through the financial district of Makati. It was accompanied by Mr Galman's 10-year-old son waving to the crowds, and by his mother and eight brothers and sisters.

Mr Galman was killed by security guards moments after Mr Aquino was shot at Manila airport on August 21.

Government backs video 'nasties' Bill

COMMONS

The Video Recordings Bill, a private members measure, to ban the distribution of video "nasties" was read a second time in the Commons. Mr Graham Bright (Luton South, C), the Bill's main sponsor said that one of his motives in bringing forward the Bill was the protection of young people.

Mr Bright, moving the second reading, said he was convinced action was required to deal with video recordings depicting unrestrained violence, sexual abuse, mutilation and murder.

He had no doubt about the rising tide of public anxiety on this issue and concern was rightly shared by MPs on both sides of the House.

The purpose of the Bill was simple to ensure that certain video recordings could be supplied commercially only if classified by an authority designated by the Home Secretary. Offences would be punishable by severe financial penalties.

It would be an offence to supply videos in breach of classification conditions attached to it, for example selling videos for over-18s to under 18s. One of the things

which had spurred him on was the protection of young people. The compilation of some of the worst extracts from video "nasties" compiled by the Metropolitan Police and shown to some MPs last week showed that these films were not the sort of Hammer horror films some had originally thought. The compilation featured scenes after scenes of revolting violence, including sickening sexual abuse, mutilation and even cannibalism.

MPs were not easily shocked, nor were they kill-joys, but he challenged anyone to give any good reason why scenes such as the brutal gang rape of a girl should be freely distributed on video recordings made available to the public.

The producers and suppliers of this obscene and degrading material had only one aim: to exploit the worst elements of human nature for profit. It might get into the hands of children and damage their views of adult life for ever.

At the moment, video recordings were subject to the general Criminal Law, including the Obscene Publications Act and some successful proceedings had been taken against certain videos and further prosecutions were pending. But there were several problems about relying on the Act to deal with video recordings.

The most frightening thing of all was that children could get hold of material which was totally unsuitable for them. One shuddered at the possibility of children and young people who liked blue movies.

A proper statutory basis in which it and the public could have confidence. The Bill allowed certain exemptions, for instance for films providing information, education or instruction or those concerned with sport, religion or music.



Bright: Children may be damaged

A restricted 18R category, for which one would have to make a conscious effort to go into a sex or adult only shop to buy, should be retained, or there would be a danger of video "nasties" flooding the black market.

The sort of thing MPs had seen in the House last week would be banned totally. The 18R material would be blue movies. There were people who liked blue movies, although he did not.

He rejected the argument that the Bill was unwarranted interference

with people's freedom to watch what they liked in their own homes. Pornography represented the violent abuse of submissive women as normal sexual behaviour. It was more than a time to question that assumption.

Mr John Popley (Norwich South, C), in a maiden speech, said he was managing director of a television and electrical shop which sold and rented video recorders and sold blank tapes but did not sell or rent any pre-recorded tapes. Many bona fide dealers he knew would welcome clear guidelines on the subject of video "nasties". He hoped the House would support the Bill.

Mr Gareth Wardell (Gower, Lab) said it was a desperately needed measure to meet an urgent problem. He had been astonished to find that local greengrocers' shops were active in the trade of renting to young people pornographic and horror video cassettes with no control on them.

Sexual aberrations were often combined with the violence, including savage acts of rape and buggery.

Sir Paul Bryan (Boothferry, C) said he had an interest in the Granada group of companies which among its activities produced and distributed video tapes.

The industry welcomed the Bill without reserve. The Bill should improve the reputation of its product and bring some prospect of order to the market where now a retailer frequently did not know whether he was breaking the law or not.

Mrs Margaret Beckett (Derby South, Lab) said pornography, unlike comic art of various kinds, was not a celebration of human

sexuality, it was an exploitation of it, and an exploitation for profit. Pornography represented the violent abuse of submissive women as normal sexual behaviour. It was more than a time to question that assumption.

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Mr Robert Macdonald (Cairness and Sutherland, SDP) said he gave his full-hearted assent to the purposes of the Bill. But the House was legislating in haste to meet a patent emergency and there were great risks in doing so. How were the "nasties" already manufactured and in circulation to be dealt with?

The problem had reached a massive scale and something urgent must be done to eliminate these appalling videos.

Sir Bernard Braine (Castle Point, C) said the Bill fell short of what was required to deal effectively with this grave and growing social evil. But he would vote for second reading on the basis that half a loaf was better than none.

The track record of the British Board of Film Censors made it totally unfit for the task of determining the suitability of videos.

Mr Denis Howell, Opposition spokesman on Home Affairs,

(Birmingham, Small Heath, Lab) said the Bill would provide the minimum protection Parliament could give to children and young people. Opposition would wish to put into the Bill a firm proposal that no video of this type should be allowed to be imported into Britain unless it had first got a classification.

Who was the Home Secretary likely to appoint to do this job? The Opposition wanted a statutory body, not the existing body which had totally failed to protect the nation's youth. The Obscene Publications Act had totally failed.

There was some evidence beginning to emerge that some crimes now showed a remarkable sense of origin with the bestial practices from these videos. A new definition was needed, such as "offensive to reasonable people".

The country demands from us (he said) a firm statement as to how we are going to protect the mental health of the country.

Mr David Meller, Under-Secretary of State, Home Office, said the Government supported the measure wholeheartedly. Had Mr Bright not brought it forward, the Government would have legislated. The Bill exactly agreed with the Government's view of what steps should be taken. The Bill would be supplementary to existing legislation.

The obvious candidate to undertake the work of categorizing these videos and ensure maximum correspondence between the categories familiar to cinema-goers and those applicable to videos was the British Board of Film Censors.

The vexed question troubling

him was what was to become of Restricted (18) category films in video-cassette form. He and the Home Secretary had understood the concern put to them by Mrs Mary Whitehouse and many others that this material might get into children's hands.

They saw the argument for the designated authority stopping R18 material altogether - a video form. He could give an assurance that if, after this matter had been considered in committee, it was the will of the House that in the public interest there should be a complete ban on the sale of Restricted (18)

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category films in video-cassette form. He and the Home Secretary had understood the concern put to them by Mrs Mary Whitehouse and many others that this material might get into children's hands.

Soldier-poet sets sights on staying in power

From Michael Hamdy, Dhaka

The military dictator of Bangladesh, the Chief Martial Law Administrator, Lieutenant General Ershad, pulled a piece of paper from his pocket and told the crowded meeting that he had written a poem.

He read it aloud. It began: The first day I walked with firm resolve

I saw, scattered along the way Men whose faces Cast no shadow on the screen

Then as I walked long today I saw, beside the countless bodies

Myself, standing by life's flood tide Hoping to trade Our tears for happiness...

The Bengalis pride themselves more on their musical and poetic tradition than their martial skills, and while it may not be up to Rabindranath Tagore's standards, the poet certainly manages to give the general's concern for the welfare and happiness of the Bangladeshis.

Ershad resolved to project a wide stream of light The shadow of your laughter The sweet dreams of your happiness...

There is a strong sense in the capital, Dhaka, and in the lush green countryside beside the muddy waters too, that the time of martial law is running out. General Ershad is plainly sensitive to the feeling, and even if he had not just been on



General Ershad: Determined to become civilian ruler

long visit to the United States, he would still have announced his return to civilian rule.

But it is also plain that the civilian rule he wishes to return the country to is his own. Because the Queen is coming - she arrives here on Monday for her first visit to independent Bangladesh - the general has put off his planned announcement of a convening committee to create a political party for him.

The politicians do not want him to stay in power.

The general has launched an 18-point programme which is a simple political manifesto. It does not actually say that it is in favour of motherhood, but that is probably an oversight. Parliamentarians in their parts have historically been rather more than simple legislators. They have been administrators too, each with considerable executive power within their own constituencies.

General Ershad's programme of rural decentralization - the upgrading of the unit of local administration from one politician's worth of constituency to a district, and making local councils responsible for much of their own development expenditure - is effectively undermining this power.

When the parliamentarians do come to be elected they will be no more than legislators again. Furthermore, the general plans to hold presidential elections after the local polls.

The politicians are not given up without a struggle. The Awami League, led by the daughter of the assassinated first Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and the Bangladesh National Party, led by the widow of the assassinated President Ziaur Rahman, have combined to produce the most successful day strike the country has seen.

Beckett: Exploitation of sexuality

videos the Government would in no sense seek to obstruct that view being adopted.

No legislation could remove from parents and other adults their primary duty to protect children

حکومت سے لڑائی

Clampdown in Grenada

Taciturn Scoon bans all public meetings

From Christopher Thomas
St George's

Sir Paul Scoon, the Governor-General of Grenada, has banned all public meetings indefinitely under the almost totalitarian powers vested in him under the officially proclaimed state of emergency.

A brief, unannounced notice on the front page of the *Government Gazette*, laced with legal jargon and signed by Sir Paul as "Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George", says that all meetings, gatherings and assemblies "of persons in any public place are prohibited throughout the state".

The only exemptions are church services and other religious gatherings, and assemblies carried out in the normal course of business.

No elaboration of the reasons for the proclamation could be obtained from the increasingly taciturn Sir Paul yesterday. There have been no known public disturbances, the mid-night to 5am curfew is fully effective, and the only significant tensions witnessed on the streets are between Caribbean troops and members of the 3,000-strong American contingent. The United States says all its soldiers should be out in two or three weeks.

The state of emergency was proclaimed by Sir Paul on November 1. The regulations which were published later gave him swinging powers over the lives of the 100,000 islanders. The most notable are:

● Any person can be prohibited from possessing any article that might be used in a manner prejudicial to public safety, order or defence.

● Restrictions can be placed on any person "in respect of his employment or business, in respect of the operation or communication with other persons, and in respect of his activities in relation to the dissemination of news or the propagation of opinions."

● Any person can be detained



Women at arms: A member of the Cuban National Guard (left) during a ceremony at Havana airport to welcome the last group of Cubans repatriated from Grenada, and a US military policeman on duty at Andrews Air Force base, Washington, guarding a display of Soviet arms captured on the island.

"in such place and under such conditions as the Governor-General may from time to time determine" without trial. An advisory tribunal, headed by a barrister can hear appeals.

● A section subtitled "Propaganda" orders that no person shall endeavour to influence public opinion "in a manner likely to be prejudicial to

defence or public safety and order." The emergency regulations authorize Sir Paul to ban the wearing of any distinctive dress or emblem, "that might cause a disturbance or promote disaffection". Section 10 gives him power to ban public meetings, which he has now done.

Meanwhile the document officially giving \$3m (£2m) of



American aid to Grenada was signed in St George's last night.

● WASHINGTON: The Reagan Administration said here emphatically that Sir Paul had issued no crackdown order on human rights and there was no press censorship in Grenada (Mohsin Ali writes).

The State Department in a statement said that United

States forces as part of the Caribbean peace force had been participating in the effort to uncover possible arms caches "but no one is involved in a human rights crackdown".

Meanwhile, seven House Democrats have asked the House of Representatives to impeach President Reagan for ordering the invasion of Grenada on October 25.

Appeal to Kissinger

Hondurans demand military solution

From Alan Tomlinson, Tegucigalpa

A powerful and influential organization representing business interests in Honduras and headed by the chief of the country's armed forces has asked the Kissinger Commission to promote a military solution to Central America's immediate problems.

The group has made known to Dr Henry Kissinger through a third party its firm view that long-term economic problems in the region cannot be solved until the Sandinista Government in Nicaragua is overthrown.

General Gustavo Alvarez Martinez, unveiled APROH, his Association for the Progress of Honduras, in January. The political opposition here promptly dubbed it "the political wing of the armed forces".

General Alvarez is the only supreme military leader not to have assumed the presidency of Honduras. He has declared himself free of any such ambition, but his influence in national security matters is understood to be predominant.

APROH provided a platform for the armed forces and like-minded industrialists and plantation owners to promote their view that international banks will not extend credit to the region's moribund economies until the destabilizing influence of the Sandinistas is eliminated.

A delegation of APROH members, led by Senator Miguel Funes, head of the Honduran business community, travelled to Miami recently to meet the American banker, Mr. Rudolph Petersen. Mr. Petersen is a close friend of Dr. Kissinger and former president of a Foreign Aid Commission during the Nixon Administration, when Dr. Kissinger was Secretary of State.

The meeting, which lasted two days, was also attended by businessmen from Panama, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Costa

Rica. A confidential document summarizing what took place for General Alvarez, who did not attend, discloses APROH's principal aims. The genuineness of the document was confirmed by two members of the association who were present in Miami.

The delegation was unanimous in its belief that there could be no solution of Central America's economic difficulties without "the immediate extinction of the cancer corroding the region from the centre in Nicaragua".

A military solution was held to be the only way to overthrow the Sandinistas. The APROH document outlined how this could be achieved with a semblance of political legitimacy by establishing a provisional counter-revolutionary government by force inside Nicaragua.

The next step, it said, would be to seek the recognition of the Organization of American States and invoke the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty. If the United States found itself short of support in the OAS, Comeca - a defence alliance between Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala - could call for American intervention instead.

The counter-revolutionary government is a clear reference to the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) which is waging guerrilla war against the Sandinista Army with the support of President Reagan in the form of an annual \$50m (£33m) in covert CIA aid.

APROH recommended urgency, with a time-scale of three to six months, before the Sandinistas can consolidate their power and Mr. Reagan has his reelection campaign to think about. Dr. Kissinger's congressional commission is due to make its recommendations in January.

Sex doctor returns for pre-trial UK visit

Los Angeles (Reuters) - Dr. Brian Richards, who is charged with soliciting the murder of his partner, intends to return to Britain today for a pre-trial visit.

"I am innocent of the charges brought against me", the London sex rejuvenation specialist said. He described the charges as a monstrous bad dream.

Dr. Richards, who was arrested while on holiday in California, faces three counts of soliciting the murder of Dr. Peter Stephan.

Trudeau views put to No 10

Mr. Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, on a four-day tour of European capitals, spent two hours in consultations with Mrs. Margaret Thatcher at Downing Street yesterday (Rodney Cowton writes).

Particular attention was given to East-West relations and to a strategy for confidence-building which Mr. Trudeau is advocating. He is expected to make a major speech in Canada tomorrow outlining the response he has received.

Photograph, page 10

News blackout on Heineken



Amsterdam - A total news blackout surrounded the kidnapping in Holland on Wednesday of Mr. Alfred Heineken, chief executive of the brewery, and his chauffeur Mr. Ab Doderer (above). The popular press spoke of ransom demands ranging from 3m guilders (£700,000) to 25m (Robert Schall writes).

Glomar hopes

Houston (AFP) - Divers exploring the sunken US drilling ship, Glomar Java Sea, in the South China Sea found no bodies. The Typhoon-stricken vessel's owner here said he was optimistic that some of the crew of 81 were safe and had reached shore in Vietnam.

Border truce

Gaborone (Reuters) - At an emergency meeting in Bulawayo, Botswana and Zimbabwe amicably resolved their problems after a border incident earlier this week, when a Botswana patrol was fired on, according to the Botswana Government.

Tahiti's loss

Papeete (AP) - Tahiti's worst ever hotel strike went into its seventeenth day at an estimated cost to the economy of nearly \$500,000 and with no sign of a settlement. Five hundred employees of the giant Tahara Tahiti Beachcomber and Sofitel Maeva Beach hotels went on a 40-hour work week and two days off.

Car shutdown

Sao Paulo - The Ford, Mercedes Benz and Volkswagen car plants in the Sao Paulo suburbs were closed by a strike of about 50,000 workers objecting to wage rises not being pegged 100 per cent to inflation. A new law passed on Wednesday confines this to only the lowest paid.

Crocodile purge

Dar es Salaam (AFP) - Tanzania is planning to kill off many of its crocodiles and export their skins in an attempt to control their spread.

A golden handshake to go home

From Our Correspondent
Bonn

Foreign workers in West Germany who are either unemployed or on short-time working are to be given conditional "golden handshakes" to help them return to their home countries. The Bonn Parliament agreed this on Thursday against sharp protests from the Opposition Social Democrats and the Greens.

The scheme will give adult foreigners from non-EEC countries about £2,658 each, plus £380 for each child. Some will also receive rebates of their contributions to old age pension schemes.

Herr Norbert Blum, the Labour Minister, told Parliament: "The scheme will end a phase of uncertainty in which foreigners have long sat on packed suitcases waiting for such help."

Money will be paid only to foreigners who were unemployed after the end of October this year, because their firms closed or went bankrupt, or have been on short shifts for at least six months.

Applications for cash payments must be made before the end of June next year, and departures from West Germany must follow by the end of September 1984. Delays in leaving the country will be penalized by reductions in payments of £380 per month.

Bundestag walkout by Greens

From Our Correspondent
Bonn

Greens party MPs walked out of the Bonn Parliament yesterday during a debate on nuclear weapons because they claimed they were given too little speaking time.

The Greens, who have 27 members in the 520-seat Bundestag, were allotted 20 minutes in the four-hour debate. But Frau Petra Kelly used up the time accusing Chancellor Kohl's Government of infringing the constitution by agreeing to deployment of Pershing 2 and cruise missiles in West Germany.

Frau Kelly also tabled a motion calling for a national referendum on the final word on the deployment issue. But Herr Friedrich Zimmermann, the Interior Minister, rejected the motion, saying that a referendum would be unconstitutional and place too great a burden of highly complicated decision upon the citizens.

Herr Manfred Wörner, the Defence Minister, told Parliament the Soviet Union was bringing ever more nuclear weapons into position against Western Europe. "There is not one square metre in Europe that cannot be reached by Soviet SS 20 missiles," he said.

The debate was in effect a curtain raiser to a full-scale confrontation on the deployment issue in the Bundestag scheduled for November 21, which is expected to end in a vote for the missiles.

Israel warns Syria not to step out of line

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem

The Government has used American diplomatic channels to warn Syria not to help radical terrorist groups in Lebanon or launch any form of attack on Israel.

Mr. David Levy, the Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday told *Ma'ariv*, the Tel Aviv newspaper, that Syrian-backed Shia Muslim suicide squads were training for further attacks on Israel. "I hope that the Syrians understood the significance of the Israeli warning," he said.

Mr. Levy also alleged that an unprecedented arms build-up was taking place inside the Syrian Army in preparation for a confrontation with Israel. Russia, he claimed, had recently shipped arms to Damascus, including surface-to-air and surface-to-ground missiles, combat aircraft, sophisticated T-72 tanks and long-range artillery.

Israel is erecting fortifications against suicide attacks at its military bases inside the country as well as in Lebanon, and Israeli intelligence has isolated a pro-Iranian Shia Muslim group, controlled by Syria, as responsible for last week's blast in Tyre, which claimed 60 lives. The group is believed to maintain close contacts with the rebel faction of the Palestine Liberation Organization, led by Mr. Abu Moussa. This is given



Arafat's man: A PLO fighter resting yesterday in Baddawi camp, Tripoli

unofficially as the reason why his bases were singled out for retaliation.

The report of the inquiry into the Tyre bombing was submitted yesterday to Mr. Moshe Arens, the Defence Minister. Israel radio said the report exonerated army officers responsible for security at the base.

Luther's 500th anniversary

From Michael Biryem
Leipzig

From the pulpit of a church in Leipzig, an American clergyman yesterday strongly attacked his country's policies in Central America and what he called oppression and exploitation in American society.

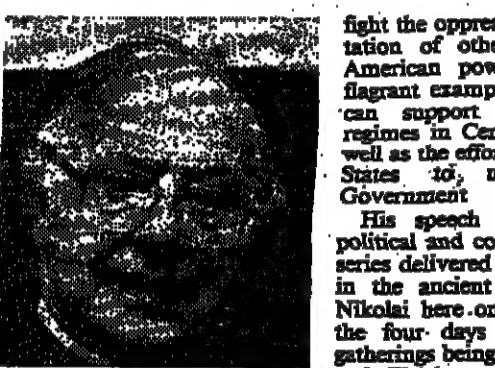
Addressing an East German congregation and bishops and clergy from all over the world celebrating with the East German Lutheran church - the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's birth, the Rev. David Stowe, of the United Church of Christ, drew applause for his outspoken and unambiguous criticisms of Washington's policies.

He said American churches had to fight the growing poverty and continuing racial discrimination in their society. "Today greater burdens are being placed on the poor while the load on the rich is being lightened,"

The churches had also to

American priest denounces Reagan's policies

Dr. Runcie: Paid tribute to Lutheran inspiration.



Dr. Runcie: Paid tribute to Lutheran inspiration.

nation in their society. "Today greater burdens are being placed on the poor while the load on the rich is being lightened,"

The churches had also to

Luther's 500th anniversary

fight the oppression and exploitation of other countries by American power. "The most flagrant example is the American support for oppressive regimes in Central America as well as the efforts of the United States to undermine the Government of Nicaragua."

His speech was the most political and controversial in a series delivered in the morning in the ancient Church of St. Nikolai here on the second of the four days of ecumenical gatherings being held in Leipzig and Eisenbach, the city where Luther was born.

Dr. Robert Runcie, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Philip Potter, general secretary of the World Council of Churches, Cardinal Johannes Willebrands of the Roman

Catholic Church and Metropolitan Filaret of the Russian Orthodox Church are among more than 400 ecclesiastical dignitaries invited from 37 countries with Lutheran communities.

In his address Dr. Runcie paid tribute to the resistance of the Confessing wing of the Lutheran Church to Hitler and also spoke of the valuable experience gained by Lutherans in Eastern Europe who had lived for 30 years under atheist governments. Their championing of the church's cause had been an inspiration to him, especially the church in the German Democratic Republic which had given Christians the world over new strength and courage.

Luther the prophet, page 10

Accord on agenda for Stockholm

From Olli Kivinen
Helsinki

The Helsinki preparatory meeting succeeded yesterday in completing without any serious disagreements, the agenda for the Stockholm conference on confidence and security building measures and disarmament in Europe.

The Helsinki meeting ended three weeks of work by adopting an agenda and timetable. The Stockholm conference will begin in January.

The agenda meeting centred mainly on technical questions, and it proceeded smoothly with all 35 participants showing a readiness to start moving the talks for the first time into the field of European disarmament.

No participant used the Helsinki meeting as a propaganda platform and big power disagreements were kept completely outside the conference. The problem of the non-participating Mediterranean states, pursued again by Malta, was solved by accepting a compromise formula, which enables the chairman of the Stockholm conference to invite contributions from these states after participants have made their initial statements.

The main East-West disagreement centred on the relationship between the Stockholm conference and the next conference on security and Cooperation in Europe (ESCE) following meeting in Vienna in 1986. The West demanded that the Stockholm conference must be clearly subservient to the Vienna conference.

The West was also able to secure an agreement of implementation of different measures agreed in Stockholm.

Spain wants Iberian free trade zone

Portugal was urged yesterday by Señor Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister, to help advance towards an Iberian free trade zone to add weight to the two countries' future EEC membership.

While Señor González kept carefully to generalities when he opened the Iberian summit by being the first Spanish Prime Minister to address the Portuguese Parliament, Señor Jaime Gama, the Portuguese Foreign Minister, made some precise demands of Spain.

Señor Gama, aged 36, a Socialist who is very close to Dr. Mário Soares, the Portuguese Prime Minister, was evidently presenting the tougher side of the Portuguese negotiating approach at this summit.

Señor González invited the Portuguese to look beyond concrete economic problems and grasp the wider opportunities but Señor Gama, delivering a broadside in Lisbon press interviews, demanded that Spain should agree to tariff concessions under the two

countries existing trade agreement.

Señor Gama warned Spain that a fairer trade balance between the two countries was essential as a precondition for putting political relations on a more equitable footing. "Portuguese products have proved their capacity to compete in the more sophisticated British and West German markets and only the excessive protectionism of the Spanish economy stops us from achieving the results we desire," he said.

By Colin Harding

Belaúnde regards local poll as popularity test

More than 100,000 candidates are standing for election in Peru tomorrow to some 1,800 local councils, in polls which the Government, led by President Belaúnde Terry, regards as a plebiscite on its economic and security policies after three and a half years in power.

The Maoist guerrilla movement, Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) has threatened to disrupt voting, and has called for a boycott of the "electoral farce". Schools throughout the country have been closed for a week in an attempt to avert violence.

The most important contest is in the capital, Lima, which has more than five million inhabitants. The Government's candidate for Mayor is Señor Alfonso Grados Bertorini, who resigned as Minister of Labour in June, and has tried to distance himself from the unpopular austerity measures of the orthodox Finance Minister, Señor Carlos Rodríguez Pastor.

By Patricia Clough

Commissioners, one of the few real weapons the Parliament possesses, has never yet been used. It needs a two-thirds majority of Parliament with at least 100 members voting in favour.

Conservative MEPs said Sir Henry's remark was intended as a "warning shot".

Fury unites Tory and Labour MEPs

The British Conservative group in the European Parliament has issued a thinly veiled threat to try to get the EEC Commission sacked for "cooking the books" on Britain's budget contribution.

And the 17 British Labour members will table a resolution at next week's session demand-

ing that the Commission should use its new formula which appears to halve Britain's net contributions.

Sir Harry Plimh, the Conservatives' group leader, said the action "seriously calls into question (the Commission's) fitness to continue in office. The power to dismiss the 13

Canada fines firm £13m

From John Best, Ottawa

An American-owned multinational distributor of household products has been fined \$20m (£13m) for defrauding the Canadian Government of more than \$28m.

It was levied in Toronto by Chief Justice Gregory Evans of the Ontario Supreme Court, against Amway Corporation of Michigan and Amway of

Canada Ltd after the firms had pleaded guilty.

In return for the plea, the Government dropped charges against a number of Amway officials, including Mr. Richard de Vos, the president, and Mr. Jay van Andel, the chairman. Mr. de Vos is a close friend of President Reagan and former finance chairman of the Republican National Committee.

Frontier attack: Six Nicaraguan soldiers were killed and 14 wounded when Honduran based rebels attacked two frontier posts in Yelapa department with mortar and artillery fire (AFP reports).

THE SEFTON SPOON

Sefton is now completely fit again following his terrible injuries in the callous and cowardly bomb attack in Hyde Park on July 20th 1982.

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THE ARTS

Theatre
Fragile life-linesSleeping Policemen
Royal Court Upstairs

This Foco Novo production consists of a collaboration between six Peckham-based actors, and two writers, Tunde Ikoli and Howard Brenton, who each supplied a play for the same set of characters, to be intercut and reassembled into a single piece. The aim, Mr Brenton says, was "to get very different angles on the characters, to make them very rich".

It may also have been their idea that post-election Peckham is no more for any single writer to claim as his own, and that more authenticity is likely to emerge from pooling the group's experience. If the result is jagged and dislocated, so is the subject.

With the exception of a foul-mouthed media person called Paul, the residents are all presented in varying degrees of sympathy. There are three blacks: a London Transport worker, a young mother deserted by her husband, and an apocalyptically crazed old man who goes through the show searching for his lost dogs, War and Peace. The white community is represented by a battered Irish wife, and Dinah, a Labour councillor, who is chiefly responsible for pulling the alienated strands together.

It opens with the dogs' escape in the midst of a thunderstorm, and proceeds with explosions of

solitary violence and fantasy as Mr McNally (Mary Ellen Ray) is beaten up by an invisible husband. An ominous chorus fans the young mother's fears of dry rot in her council flat, and Paul (Craig Crossbie) wanders the streets in a gorilla suit, turning the night air bright blue in his search for a fancy-dress party.

After the interval, Roland Rees's production begins to make, interesting shapes from the assembled material. Two chorus sections, frame a hospital interview where Martin, learns that his wife is dying from bowel cancer. More to the point, Dinah convenes a residents' meeting on traffic hazards (hence one meaning of the title) which brings a well-focused conflict between council tenants and home owners, and rises to its climax when the unspeakable Paul barges in to seek compensation for burglary.

What Mr Rees presents is the cross-section of a deprived community; an area of vandalized phone boxes, bad housing, and penalized councils, where the residents are apt to prey on one another.

Buried inside the play is a calm commonsense plea for mutual help, embodied mainly in the stolidly overworked figure of Carrie Lee Baker's Dinah, but also appearing in a network of positive relationships that gradually spin out like so many fragile life-lines.

Irving Wardle

Body and Soul
Palace, Watford

At a time when mentioning God's gender brings letters shoaling to *The Times* like the miraculous draught of fishes, a parish priest who has a serene change and, having certainly been ordained, insists on continuing her job is more than an embarrassment. In Roy Kendall's play, Christopher Christie pierces the church's objection to women priests and priests it apart.

Her bishop is not some old terror but the cautiously liberal Patrick Stewart, shrunk after a firebrand youth in international hockey (appropriately unisex) into an evasiveness that drives his wife (Gwen Watford) to despair, intermittent separation and wry jokes likening him to the church he serves.

His play-long progress towards making a stand for a vicar he believes in runs parallel with domestic strains, often touchingly and skilfully drawn: expected to cook brilliantly but not trusted to open vintage wine, his wife finds him little better than the visitors who treat her as a receptionist.

Casting a transcendental needs almost as much delicacy as complimenting director (John

Dove) and actress (Helen Ryan) on making it convincing. Gravely inquiring why a woman can become a saint but not a priest, Miss Ryan is moving; but the part's very determination precludes development.

All the play can do is have prelates and lawyers debate sexuality and artificial pudenda over the Lambeth Palace sherry and sandwiches before tackling the big issue, which could go on forever. After 10 minutes or so, I found the demeaning search for loopholes (would "uncleanliness" get rid of this turbulent priest?) and dogmatic confrontations over 1 Timothy 2 more numbing than the gladiatorial political discussions in *My Days*. None of this has half the force of the dear, old parishioner (Brenda Cowling) vainly seeking the much-loved Christopher to comfort her dying father.

"Who is running this church?" roars Mr Stewart at one point. "What is the law for?" Fair to call them into question when they seem to run counter to our will and interests; but apart from suggesting Rome and unity hopes as the cause of Anglican inflexibility, little remains but a plea for reform, couched uncomfortably in a soap-opera style.

Anthony Masters

House of Lords

Valuer's approach in assessing rates

K. Shoe Shops Ltd and Others v Hardy (Valuation Officer) and Others. Before Lord Fraser of Tullybelton, Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Scarman, Lord Bridge of Harwich and Lord Templeman. [Speeches delivered November 3].

The General Rate Act 1967 required the rateable value of premises in the 1973 valuation list to be based on an estimate of the rent which the landlord of the premises could reasonably expect to negotiate on April 1, 1973 for an annual tenancy commencing on that date, subsequent quinquennial valuations would be based on a common valuation date of the quinquennial April 1.

The House of Lords dismissed three consolidated appeals by K. Shoe Shops Ltd, ratepayers of shop premises in Regent Street, Westminster, against the decision of the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Stephenson, Lord Justice Kerr and Sir Patrick Browne) on December 9, 1982 who upheld a decision of the first respondent, the Westminster Valuation Officer. The Westminster City Council appeared as second respondents.

Mr D. G. Widdicombe, QC and Mr Guy Roots for the appellants; Mr W. J. Glover, QC and Mr Alan Fletcher for the valuation officer;

Mr Richard Tucker, QC and Mr Richard Hone for the City of Westminster.

LORD TEMPLEMAN said that the 1967 Act provided for a valuation list to be made of rateable values up to date when each new list came into force and which would last for the next five years. It did not require the valuation officer to be guided by the estimate of rateable value on any particular date; the only fixed and immutable date provided by the Act was the relevant quinquennial April 1.

The appellants had claimed that the Act required that the valuation list which came into force on April 1, 1973 should reflect rental values current at that date. They relied on a finding that the Act did not contain an express requirement for valuation as at April 1, 1973 and asserted that the valuation officer could not make in advance correct estimates of rent payable on that date.

However such a requirement had to be implied because a common valuation date was necessary, the first respondent 68 pointing to April 1, 1973 as that common valuation date and there being no provision in the Act for the determination or ascertainment of any other common valuation date. Further, no rational value would have any great difficulty in

estimating in advance rents obtainable on April 1, 1973.

The appellants had also submitted that the provisions of sections 20 and 68(4) of the 1967 Act were inconsistent with any implication that the Act created a common valuation date which was April 1, 1973. In his Lordship's view there was nothing in sections 20 and 68(4), or elsewhere in the Act, inconsistent with the inference that section 68(1) had established April 1, 1973 as the common valuation date.

The appellants were unable to provide any convincing answer to the question as to how the common valuation date, if not April 1, 1973, was to be ascertained and by whom it was to be determined. They had asserted by reference to a graph which their surveyor dignified by the name of a toponym and by deduction from that graph and by deduction from their surveyor's evidence that their surveyor's estimate of the value of the premises in the valuation list was based on an average of the rent estimates made by the valuation officer's correspondents closely to rents current in late 1970 or to rents payable subsequently. Therefore, they argued, the

John Higgins talks to Noni Hazlehurst, now making an impact in London

Another star, up from Down Under

By far the best element in *Monkey Grip*, a modest Australian feature which opened yesterday at the Screen on the Strand, among other London cinemas, is its leading actress, Noni Hazlehurst. Miss Hazlehurst is a small, effervescent blonde, who thinks as briskly as she talks. She is to be found for the next three weeks heading a cabaret called *Cat and Thrust* at the De La Salle off Tottenham Court Road, not a venue famous for its right-wing sympathies. CARD CARRYING MEMBERS ONLY CAN BE SERVED says a hand-written notice on the bar, and it is a relief to discover that these cards can be obtained for 10p each from the building. She will also be seen with Warren Mitchell in *Waterfront*, a series about the Melbourne dock strike of 1928 which later led to a general election, on Channel 4 next spring.

Monkey Grip is also a slice of Melbourne life, as David Robinson wrote on this page in his review, "the erotic and sentimental adventures of a young woman on the fringes of a small-time Bohemia". Helen Garner's novel on which the film was based, picked up the Australian National Book Council's award for literature in 1978. (It has just been published here by Penguin, at £1.75).

Miss Hazlehurst, quite rightly, received this year's Australian Film Institute award for best actress for the film. Although the director, Ken Cameron, hardly underlines the fact, *Monkey Grip* is already a piece of history about living a decade ago in the Melbourne suburb of Carlton when the *vie de bohème* was at its height. Noni Hazlehurst agrees.

Reith Lecture time is back again, and it always does, that faint sense of delight occasion which must, I think, stem partly from the aura that still surrounds the memory of the man whose name the lectures bear. Surely this year we shall be the recipients of some amazing if cryptic truth: one corner of the world will be a clearer place six broadcasts on than it was before? Of course, if this is what we expect, we ignore the lessons of experience: some Reith Lectures - and last year's Denis Donoghue's *The Arts without Mystery*, I now see as an outstanding example - actually cast a little darkness, while most leave matters pretty much where they were before.

The Golding style of programme presentation is well



"Yes. We tried to recreate that early Seventies world of Melbourne when everyone was following his or her own precepts within a small community. I only knew it by hearsay because I was studying and working in Adelaide at the time. But all the actors and writers lived in Melbourne and the Pram Factory was very much the focal point of artistic existence. [That theatre upstairs very much lived up to its title as the cradle of much of the new Australian drama - of - the period.]

"Such a lifestyle exists no more. Carlton has become a trendier and full of smart restaurants." The Hazlehurst role, Nora, is that of a divorcee with a 10-year-old daughter; she has an on-off relationship with a junkie actor - "See yer when I see yer" is a repeated line in the film - and a number of other men in between whites. Some might see her as a predator?

On the basis that listeners allergic to lectures may be called into mourning in by the well-rounded and attractive personality of the lecturer, it has become the practice to pretend each set of lectures with the Reith Lecture Interview. Accordingly on the evening of November 2, Radio 4 gave us Mary Golding in conversation with Sir Douglas Wass, recently retired as Permanent Secretary to the Treasury and Joint Head of the Home Civil Service. This served as quite a come-on for the 1983 Lectures, but achieved this not so much by what Sir Douglas said as by what he did not.

It was plain from the first exchanges that the mandarin known: its distinguishing characteristics reside in irony, restrained iconoclasm and a certain sort of colloquial archness in the questioning. All these are deeply coloured by the Golding voice: this suggests more than anything the rather formidable lady don of fierce intellect. The same style was brought to bear in full measure on Sir Douglas, but whereas it adds both spice and interest to the average current affairs documentary, here it had a very different effect.

It was plain from the first exchanges that the mandarin

"I've chosen a profession in which I'm paid to think; in this life most people are not paid to think."

Doesn't the Australian cinema, not to mention a bit obsessed with hard drugs at the moment, with films like *Monkey Grip* and *Winter of Our Dreams*? "No. I don't think so. Remember you see only a small proportion of our product. So possibly do we. *Monkey Grip* came out in a year when there were 355 features made in Australia - ridiculous for a country with our population. Of course, several of them are still sitting on the shelf. But I'm glad to say that our film industry is now shaking itself out."

"No. If we have an obsession it is with our history. Once we got past sheep we were into history and I regret the dearth of contemporary films, although there are one or two including *Lovely Henry* which I like a lot and which you haven't seen yet."

"What Australia does have at the moment is a profusion of good actors of all ages, shapes and sizes. We've had a chance to confront ourselves over the past few years. I've chosen a profession in which I'm paid to think; in this life most people are paid not to think. But there are penalties. Because there are so many women to cast from in Australia it is not exactly easy to make living as a film actress."

So what about a return to the classical theatre for Noni Hazlehurst, who quite recently played *Phedra* in a William Gaskill-directed production? After all she has done most other things in her 30 or so years to date from scriptwriting to directing, through being a regular presenter of ABC's *Play School* and much other television, and now cabaret.

"Well, classical theatre isn't exactly strong in Australia. And all that fringing around in corsets, spouting words nobody understands - while the rest of the world goes on. No, thank you. But if somebody offered me a musical

Radio

was not to be seduced. The formidable lady don's response was to sail even closer to the wind. However the more she achieved, the less she suddenly filled with the disquieting impression that the same unvarying programme to all circumstances.

There is another example to be found in something I did not have the space to say last week: much the same thing is happening to Ray Gosling's *Not Exactly in His Footsteps* (Radio 4, Tuesday). The highly individ-

Television
Nein, danke

Early last year I aroused ire, and drew a private rebuke from the Bishop of Rochester, for failing to go down like a ninny before the charms of the BBC's latest Trollope adaptation. At the risk of provoking even greater ire I must regretfully record a negative reaction to the first episode of *Ans Weidersee*, Pex (Central).

Written by Dick Clement and Ian La Frenais and based on the true stories of British *Gastarbeiter* in West Germany of the late 1970s, the series is as accomplished and convincing a piece of work as you might expect. The Goethe trio who seek their fortunes as skilled labourers in Düsseldorf - a yobbo, a tough nut and a sofie - are entirely believable characters; the harsh and bewildering world through which they stumble is well-perceived. The scrapes they get into are mildly amusing, as are, sometimes, the things they say.

According to its producer, the series is to a certain extent about the insularity of British abroad and is heavy with overtones about unemployment. Yes, and yes again. But it is also heavy with something else: an indulgent

mawkish, inverted sentimentality. Auf weidersehen, pets. In the *Bride* (BBC 2), a new "story" by Farrukh Dhondy, skinned Southall fell in love with expatriate India, but the latter remained maddeningly elusive. The substance of this grimly contemporary little tale took the form of a single flashback, with the despairing young Romeo forcing his way into his ex-teacher's classroom and then reeling a five-year tragedy back through his mind while he waited for his intended audience to knock off work and listen.

All the obvious social clichés were pressed into service, from Paki-bashing to India's shockingly inhumane marriage customs.

Much of the action, thanks to Franco Rosso's direction, bore its condensed dialogue with ease but there were some emotional implausibilities as well as some frankly confusing moments. Phil Daniels played the standard London yobbo to the manor born, and Janet Steel made a moving heroine even if her glacial steps did sound a little too carefully sprinkled through her lines.

Michael Church

WEEKEND CHOICE

On the eve of Remembrance Sunday, Yorkshire Television and Radio 3 have produced two notable programmes which, though firmly pegged to the Great War - the War to End All Wars - cast their long shadows forward from 1918 and backwards from 1914. The dates, both the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the war and the 100th anniversary of the end of the war, are a cruel irony about the waste, anger and pity.

Not About Heroes (ITV 10.45) is a two-part series by Stephen Macdonald, Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen meet, in 1917, become linked by their poetry and mutual respect, and are parted by a burst of machine-gun fire in 1918. Mr Macdonald has seamlessly stitched together extracts from the Sassoon/Owen correspondence and from their poems, embroidering them with some imagined dialogue.

As to the lectures themselves, they come under the title of *Government and the Governed* (Radio 4, Wednesday, repeating Radio 3, Sunday), producer, David Morton) and we are only one down and five to go. The speaker has embarked on an insider's account of some of the ways in which governmental decisions are reached and will give some views on how that might be more efficiently, more responsibly done.

Elsewhere this has been Martin Luther memorial week and I listened to John Osborne's *Luther* (Radio 3, Nov 6; director, John Tydeman) with

Grandfather Was a Soldier (Radio 3, 9.00) is an original work for radio by Marilyn Bowring. In it war poetry is transmuted into heightened prose, and narrative prose into a kind of poetry, and David Downard's music rounds off an atmosphere of the terrible and pathetic images.

The South Bank Show (tomorrow, ITV, 10.30 pm) finds the painter David Hockney in pioneering mood, lifting the boat from the familiar waters of his swimming pools and pushing it into uncharted seas. Finding no sense of thin-laps or space-spread in the single photograph, he seeks to achieve an illusion of bold by assembling lots of snapshots of the same incident into patterns. Mr Hockney's "joiners" make sense while Mr Hockney is standing at our elbow, with elucidatory index finger.

Peter Daville

more respect for the acting and direction that made it, 2½ hours seem relatively short than irritation at the author's long-winded preoccupation with fathers (spiritual/biological, confusion of) and intractable constipation (spiritual/intellectual, confusion of). The event gained some interest from a previous Radio 4 programme, *The Theology of Luther* (November 5; producer, Peter Firth) which gave much greater weight to the man's intellectual achievements and psychological insights other than the ones that fascinated Osborne. Come a repeat of the play, this discussion should precede or follow it.

David Wale

Court of Appeal

Delayed justice might become injustice

Dwyer v Rederick and Others. Before Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice May and Lord Justice Dillon. [Judgment delivered November 3].

Delayed justice ran the substantial risk of becoming injustice. The time might be ripe for procedural changes, the hurdle of establishing the court and the judiciary to play a greater part than heretofore in encouraging the parties and their advisers to speed up the process of litigation.

Although professional men were not entitled to a special preference over the balance of probabilities, the hurdle of establishing something more than mere balance of probabilities was greater when investigating the complicated and sophisticated areas of professional men than when inquiring into the momentary inattention of the driver of a motor car in a simple running-down case.

The Master of the Rolls and Lord Justice May, as stated when the Court of Appeal in reserved judgments allowed (Lord Justice Dillon dissenting) an appeal by the second defendant, Dr David J. Jackson, of West Bar, Banbury, Oxfordshire, from the judgment of Mr Justice Stuart-Smith on February 10, 1982, that Dr Jackson should bear a contribution of 15 per cent of the sums payable by the first and third defendants, Dr Ian W. Rederick also of West Bar, Banbury, and Cross Chemists (Banbury) Ltd, respectively.

Subject to liability, damages had been agreed between the parties at £92,000 for Mrs Dwyer and £8,000 for her husband in respect of a claim for damages for personal injuries caused by the negligence of the first and second defendants, as Mrs Dwyer's doctors in or about November 1973 and of the third defendants as the pharmacists in the dispensing of a prescription for Migral tablets for Mrs Dwyer at that time. The judge had held all three defendants liable in negligence and apportioned liability at 45 per cent to the first, 15 per cent to the second and 40 per cent to the third defendants.

Mr Roger Bell, QC, and Mr W. R. Phillips, for Dr Jackson; Mr C. O. M. Beddingfield, QC, and Mr Arthur Duckworth, for the third defendants. LORD JUSTICE MAY said that Dr Jackson contended that the judge ought not to have found him negligent at all. It had been found that the judge had held all three defendants liable for negligence and apportioned liability for the 15 per cent liability

which had hitherto rested upon him.

The first defendant had admitted at the trial that his mistake, on November 20, 1973, in prescribing a total of 60 tablets of Migral-two tablets to be taken every four hours as necessary, constituted negligence on his part which caused the damage which Mrs Dwyer subsequently suffered. The negligence was that Dr Jackson was that when he had visited Mrs Dwyer on November 23, 1973, he failed to discover that she was taking Migral and in dangerous doses.

The trial had taken place over eight years after the events which it concerned. The court's business was to do justice between the parties in a given piece of litigation. Delayed justice ran the substantial risk of becoming injustice for one side or another.

After the passage of so many years the task of witnesses, and that of the court, was very difficult. In some jurisdictions, once litigation had been started, the courts and the judiciary played a greater part than they could in our jurisdiction in seeing that the subsequent steps in the litigation were taken promptly.

Unnecessary delay in litigation attracted more criticism than any other aspect of our legal system. If by any procedural changes it could be reduced, litigants, the courts, society and the public purse would all benefit.

Although there were no special rules about the extent of the burden of proof where negligence against professional men was alleged, it was wise to have in mind what Lord Justice Denning said in *Bater v Bater* (1951) P 35, 37.

Professional men, or others skilled in their art, trade or science, were entitled to no special preference before the law, to no rule requiring a higher standard of proof than the balance of probabilities in any other case.

But it was to shut one's eyes to the obvious if one denied that the burden of achieving something more than the mere balance of probabilities was greater when one was investigating the complicated and sophisticated actions of a qualified and experienced lawyer, doctor, accountant, builder or motor engineer than when one was inquiring into the momentary inattention of the driver of a motor car in a simple running-down case.

Dr Jackson's evidence was that his normal practice was to ask to see the medicines which the patient was taking, the defendant did not see any Migral bottle or tablets. The judge had held that the overwhelming likelihood was that

when he visited Mrs Dwyer on November 23, 1973, the bottle of Migral tablets was on the latter's bedside table and that over the years Dr Jackson had rationalized and persuaded himself that he could not have known that Mrs Dwyer was taking Migral until he discovered her taking Migral and in dangerous doses.

In his Lordship's opinion the judge was wrong to hold negligence on the part of Dr Jackson on the basis of there having been a Migral bottle beside Mrs Dwyer's bed on November 23.

There was no such evidence on which the third defendants (who had failed to notice the negligent and wholly wrong nature of the directions for taking the drug which the first defendant had given) could make out their claim by evidence acceptable to the judge which on the balance of probabilities proved that Dr Jackson had been negligent.

The appeal should be allowed. LORD JUSTICE DILLON, dissenting, said that the judge had seen and heard Dr Jackson in his witness box and had rejected the latter's positive evidence that the bottle of Migral tablets was not on the table. It was a finding with which the Court of Appeal, which had not seen or heard Dr Jackson giving evidence, could not interfere.

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SPORTING DIARY

White-out ahead

BBC TV's industrial problems are troubling the minds of many governing bodies of sport, perhaps more so than the National Sporting Association. It fears that the glittering pearl in its collection, the farewell British championship performance of Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean in their native Nottingham next Friday, may not go out.

The NSA stands in the crossfire between two contracts, one with the BBC and the other with its sponsors, Tuborg, who stoically bore the loss of the British figure skating championships from our screens last week in the knowledge that Torvill and Dean, world ice dance champions for three years, would later be furthering the cause of Danish lager before a much bigger audience. Now that is in doubt, though, Tuborg will be comforted by the thought that the ITV companies are falling over one another in the attempt to replace BBC if the corporation cannot give a guarantee to the NSA by the end of this week.

Sextuplicate

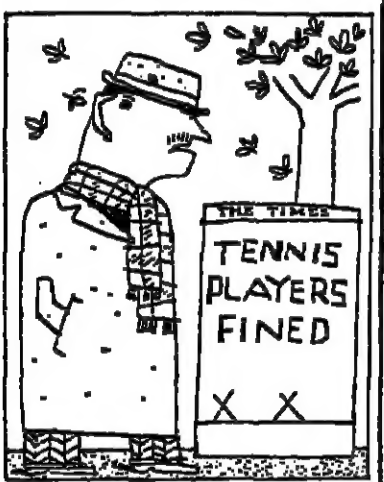
Some horses have confusing names. Try My Best, for example. Another to scratch your head over is the chaser W Six Times, who was third at Wincanton on Thursday. The name represents the Irish seller's assessment: "Waited Will Win When Wanted".

Not so game

There are all kinds of ways of getting a greyhound used to the terrifying crowd sounds at the Greyhound Derby. That bellow of financial intoxication, known as the "Derby Roar", certainly seemed to trouble the warm favourite, Game Ball, who disappointed his backers something rotten.

Popular ways of preparing a dog for the Roar include standing for hours under railway bridges, and taking the animal to football matches, where the liveliness and excitement of the occasion gets him ready for the night of his life. The story goes that Game Ball's trainer did all that, but made one significant error. He took Game Ball to see Arsenal.

BARRY FANTONI



"Somehow obscenities aren't the same without strawberries and cream"

Doubling up

Ian Botham, the Scunthorpe footballer, has scored two goals in the past week. For Scunthorpe Reserves. "He likes scoring goals," explained the club manager, Allan Clarke, who believes that Botham would have made it to the top in football if it had been his major sport.

I. T. Botham is not the only current first-class cricketer with Football League experience. Others are Balderston, Barmby, Barmby and Sidbottom. Rather alarmingly, Bob Willis used to be a goalkeeper for the Southern League side, Guildford City.

Viv Richards, who has developed the habit of trumping any ace played by his mate Botham, has played World Cup football for Antigua. Does that make him the only man to have played at World Cup level in two different sports?

Gloves off

I hear that Frank Bruno is branching out. In a recent interview he denied that boxing was the only thing in his life. He was considering a hobby. Pressed further, he said: "I might take up chopping down trees." It is hard to know how to react.

Here is the weekend's most significant bicycle polo fixture. Solent Wheelers take on the might of Chelsea Peddlers in a field opposite the John Peel pub in Gosport on Sunday morning at 10.30.

Polly gone

I fear the knell has finally tolled for that fine old footballing expression "as sick as a parrot". The vogue word now among thoughtful footballers is "guttled" - indeed, the first words spoken by Mark Hulver on his resignation as chairman of Charlton Athletic were "I'm gutted". Alan Mulvey, the Becontree manager of Crystal Palace, chose to begin a post-match press conference by flinging the door open and pronouncing the same words, unprintably embellished.

But already the word gutted is over exposed; somewhere, football's great and original minds must be rifling through their Rogets for a new way of describing football's most important emotion.

Simon Barnes

In the 1890s - while courting his first wife, Alys - Bertrand Russell kept a

'locked diary' whose contents are to be revealed in the first of

a 28-volume collection of his work. Here he describes their debates on

marriage - and Anthony Quinton reports on the massive task of publication

JULY 21, 1893

I dreamt last night that I was engaged to be married to Alys, when I discovered that my people had deceived me, that my mother was not dead but in a madhouse. I therefore had of course to give up the thought of ever marrying. This dream haunts me. (Alys's birthday.)

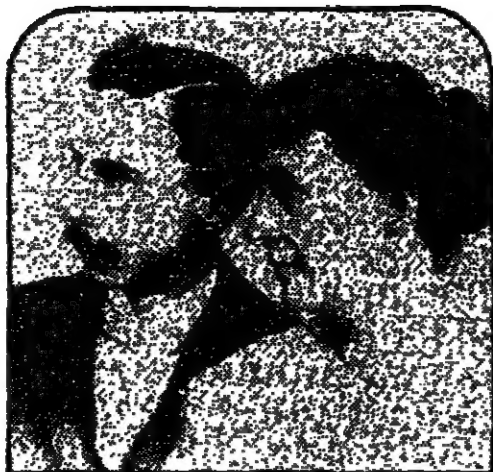
I think of Alys all day long. Like Neschanoff in *Urgency*, I am haunted by a doubt of my real feelings. So much so that I half fear the amusement of my relations. What a curse it is to have so keen a sense of humour! But of course the whole business is ridiculous and I ought to get it out of my head as soon as possible; and above all keep it quite to myself. I incline to think that my passion is imaginary when I reflect that I "love Love" just now and envy those who have a mutual love. But I think it has been genuine, not only now, but ever since I first met her, when I reflect on the minute recollection I have of every detail of my meetings with her. One thing thank God I gain by my habit of self-analysis: I know Lust has absolutely no share in my passion.

AUGUST 12, 1893

The greatest day of my life hitherto. Alys and I came to stay a night and she said afterwards by herself we went *à la déesse* in a canoe and discussed love and marriage. How absurd to an older person it would seem to have to argue and argue on a question of social ethics before acquiring the minutest right to speak of one's own feelings! I gave her my little essay on the immorality of not marrying if in any way above the average: this led to a discussion. I explained how in my view love, sympathy, friendship (whichever you like) was the greatest thing attainable, was indeed the only thing ultimately worth having; she maintained independence; I tried to prove this a means to a higher end. We agreed to a large extent that marriage gave the best opportunity for such spiritual love and that a pure friendship between man and woman is impossible. But I found, what I had always imagined in women, an aversion to sexual intercourse and a shrinking from it only to be overcome by the desire for children.

AUGUST 25, 1893

Have received two letters from Alys and written two. Any place seems to me now endurable, as I can reach her by letter, which is next best to her society. We still discuss marriage, but then will be only the time to begin what is important to me. The ridiculous elements in my position, which used to obtrude themselves so painfully on my thoughts, have vanished in comparison of the keenness of my love, which has become a clear and certain fact to me. She dwells in my thoughts from morning till night and in my dreams from night till morning.



Victorian virtue besieged: Russell and Alys

I dreamt Miss Stephens flirted furiously with me in the wood here. I found myself almost forced to put my arm round her waist and kiss her, but in doing so I said: You mustn't imagine I wish to marry you, as I am in love with another. When I am awake my relation to her seems so much more real than my relation to anybody else that what others may do and say appears of no importance. Ah when shall I be able to speak, and will she be horrified and regard all my present conduct as selfish and me as a fool? For me no happy issue I am sure is possible. But to resist is now become impossible to me: I no longer tear up her letters with a gulp and a jerk as I used to do, but treasure them up, and read them constantly. Fool! Fool! Fool!

SEPTEMBER 16, 1893

All is accomplished: my wildest hopes had not imagined such success. I have been two days at Friday's hill; the first morning she and I went up into the Bow-Tree. I said I made few demands on life and those were not to be granted: she said all wishes could be obtained by perseverance: I felt certain she knew what I meant so felt encouraged but could hardly believe my good fortune. So I talked about friends in general and said I always cared more about them than they about me.

She: You don't trust them. I: I don't. After a pause, and with the greatest hesitation, after a concentrated struggle in myself, I said: I am sure you don't care for me as I care for you.

She: No but I have entire sympathy with you and what more can you want? I wish you could take our friendship calmly like any other: I think this makes a defect in the relation. I: I have tried

The Collected Papers of Bertrand Russell is published by George Allen & Unwin on November 24, price £48. Subsequent volumes will appear up to the year 2000.

Russell: from young fogey to giant of philosophy

Russell's irrepressible intellectual vitality, together with the very long life in which it was exercised without remission, resulted in a vast mass of written matter. For long periods of his life, he had to write for a living. As time went on, he started each year financially well behind because of the alimony payments due to the steadily increasing company of his former wives.

Not too far from the centre of a rich dual family, he took his place in the world with a reasonable private income. But he gave away much of his inheritance in a sequence of high-minded and incautious gestures. As a result, he had to rush out such things as the 156 brief essays written for the *Hearst* newspapers from 1931-35 (published as *Morals and Others* eight years ago), among which are to be found "Who should use lipstick?" and "Should socialists smoke good cigars?"

The first volume is a mixture of personal material, diaries and notebooks, with essays written at his crammer's and at Cambridge. Some talks to the Apostles, his first professional efforts, directed towards his fellowship dissertation, and the book that emerged from it, in 1897, on the foundations of geometry. At the end are some politico-economic pieces, leading up to his first book, in 1896, *German Social Democracy*, composed when he was undecided between an academic career as a philosopher-mathematician or as a politician-economist.

That indecision is reflected in his career as it actually turned out and in the subsequent volumes of the planned series. The next 10 are on philosophy in a more or less technical sense. Six cover the years from 1898 to 1913 and the writing of his major book on the theory of knowledge. Because of Wittgenstein's crushing reaction, Russell never published it. It will be the second volume in the series to come out, so philosophers, who are likely to find it the most interesting, will soon be able to discover how well-judged was Wittgenstein's contemptuous dismissal.

Where six volumes are given to Russell's first 15 years as a professional philosopher, the remaining 22 years of his writing on the subject take up only four volumes. Wittgenstein, one could say, seems to have knocked about four-fifths of the stuffing out of his philosophical pretensions.

In fact, Russell went on to write a great many more philosophical books, but most professionals would say that nothing he brought out after his *Analysis of Matter* in 1927 achieved the level of his previous publications. His non-philosophical writings, thin on the ground in his earlier years, become increasingly numerous and bulky with his return to Britain at the end of the Second World War, the nuclear threat and, in due course, Vietnam. Fifteen of the volumes cover this side of Russell's output.

The model for the project of bringing out Russell's collected papers in 28 large volumes is the publication, in 70 volumes from 1785-89, of the complete works of someone with whom he has often been compared - Voltaire. The comparison is not quite right; Voltaire spread himself wider and thinner than Russell. He wrote in every known literary genre and was most admired, in his own time, for his tragedies. His philosophical writings were not, and did not pretend to be, original. Voltaire was acting as an intellectual import agent, bringing to the French the ideas of Locke and Newton.

Russell, on the other hand, for all the debts he was so willing to acknowledge, was a major philosopher, the sixth in the great line of British philosophers that runs from William of Ockham and Hobbes by way of Locke and Hume to John Stuart Mill. His place of honour in the history of formal and philosophical logic, in the philosophy of mathematics and the theory of knowledge, is unassailable. His other writings, though splendidly lucid and businesslike, lack Voltaire's literary distinction.

In 1968, McMaster University, in Hamilton, Ontario, bought the "Russell archive", acquiring another substantial chunk of material four years later. A periodical of Russell studies was started. A large crew of researchers settled down to putting the material in order and annotating it.

The first volume contains a great deal of varied and interesting writing from Russell's first decade as an independent thinker. The earliest is a notebook in which reflections of a broadly religious and moral character are written in Greek letters starting when he was 16, so as to keep them from prying eyes of grandmother and aunt. The great themes of God and free will, immortality and conscience are rehearsed with charm and penetration. An example of the first is the remark that Shakespeare and Herbert Spencer differ as much from a Papuan as a Papuan does from a monkey.

Again, he wonders what motive he can have for virtue unless the dogmas of religion are true, "especially when Granny dies". An example of penetration is his argument against Wordsworth's belief in the soul's pre-existence of birth from the fact of the psychological resemblance of children to their parents.

His "locked diary", kept private by physical means rather than the use of a code, is not quite as riveting as its title might imply, but it has its attractions. At Pembroke Lodge, Russell had important visitors, eccentric uncles and aunts, lots of elegantly (one of them a tennis cheat), reading aloud, arguing about immortality, capital punishment, marriage and so forth. Before marrying Alys, he writes: "Lust has absolutely no share in my passion." That may have been just as sexual intercourse. (The aversion does not seem to have survived actual experience of it wholly unchanged.)

A summer's reading list



Four on Russell's self-imposed list: Shelley, Ibsen, Turgenev and Mrs Gaskell. Plus a stiffening of mathematics

JUNE

Evilina Fanny Burney
Alastair Burrey
Peer Gynt Ibsen
Excursion Wordsworth
Die Neue Generation Turgenev
Die kleine Padon George Sand
Die Wildente Ibsen
Grand Ibsen
The Cenci Shelley

JULY

La Fortune des Raougon Zola
A Study in Temptation J.G. Hobbes
Méthode Ethics H. Sidgwick
Docteur Pascal Zola
Jane Eyre C. Brontë

Descartes Liard
Lieutenant Jargunoff Turgenev
Erne Soltsame Geschichte Turgenev
Der Fürst Turgenev
Geschichte der Religion und Philosophie in Deutschland Heine
Discours de la Méthode Descartes

AUGUST

Lukerja Turgenev
System der Philosophie Wundt
Sylvia's Lovers Mrs Gaskell
Epipsychidion Shelley
Further Determination of the Absolute McTaggart
Der Bund der Jugend Ibsen
Romeo und Julia Ibsen
Cymbeline Shakespeare

but it isn't like any other; I have fought hard but cannot take it calmly. Then there was a long pause. At last she said in a rather unsteady voice: I think if I were conscientious I should put an end to this friendship, for your sake; but I care about it too much myself.

I interrupting: Oh you couldn't do that: it's the only thing that makes life valuable to me. She: Well fortunately I'm not conscientious. After a pause and with some hesitation (as no word of marriage had yet been said) I told her my dream with which this journal begins. After some talk about it she said: I wish you would put away the thought of marriage: friendship is so much nicer, I don't want to marry, at least for a long, long time.

I will try and be calm, and I could be more easily if I saw more of you. She: We ought to see each other often if we are ever to think of it (marriage I suppose). Then we were long silent: when for the first time I felt an intense happiness with all but no admixture of pain.

Next morning we went on to the beach hill before breakfast: it was a glorious morning when everything seems young and innocent.

She: I feel we ought to discuss our friendship once more before beginning it: I am not sure if you are entering on it with your eyes open. You see if we were to grow very intimate and I not to fall in love with you at the end it would give you such intense pain. I: But it's my only chance. I can answer for my love remaining unchanged: it is too late if you wish to save me pain in a separation. If it must come, the longer it is postponed the better: seeing my love cannot grow greater than it is.

She: But people develop so much after your age. I: Yes I think it would be wrong not to wait years before marriage. - But we are to meet as often as is at all possible: talk little of our friendship (having made our positions quite clear to each other) but try and get to know each other intimately: as we of course both feel that without great intimacy it is folly to become engaged. She promises nothing after years of intimacy; but these are in themselves a prospect full of joy; and I have promised (what is within my strength) even if the worst should happen I would not be in any way foolish. I assured her that for the present she had made me happy as I had never believed I could be: and she said she was much happier than before our explanation. *Et depuis je ne me sens plus de joie.*

But what a curse the conventions necessitated by folly and bestiality are to those who like ourselves must disregard them if we are to act honestly, and yet ought not, however we might desire it, openly to disregard them, as this would lessen our influence and power of doing good and would besides cause both her relations and mine considerable pain, and be completely misunderstood. Hence concealment and all its attendant dangers. However I have practised it so long at home that I must by now be inoculated against its bad effects. Oh that there could be one morality for the prudent and one for the fool!

Woodrow Wyatt

Still a charter for ballot rigging

The Government is mulling the centrepiece of its trade union reform - secret ballots for the elections of union executives.

The Trade Union Bill had its second reading on Tuesday. On ballots, it would have been acceptable to the communists who rigged the ballots in the electricians' union for some 20 years until they were ousted by the High Court in 1961. The Bill requires every member to be able to vote at a time and place convenient to him at no cost to himself; freedom from interference of constraint; and "so far as is reasonably practicable, those voting to do so in secret".

That was the substance of the old rules in the electricians' and engineers' unions before they both adopted the secret postal ballot. It is the substance of the rules in most unions today.

Holding ballots at conveniently located branch meetings of workplaces will satisfy the new Bill. At workplaces, to quote Mr Paddy McMahon, a national officer of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union, writing in the September issue of his union's journal, "participation may be on a very selective basis, some being heavily persuaded to vote, while others are virtually ignored".

At workplaces and branch meetings attended by two or three per cent of the membership, there is no foolproof way of preventing ballot papers not issued, or discarded after issue, being filled in fraudulently, or of checking the number issued and to whom.

Look what happened when the Electrical Trades Union, as it then was, had voting rules acceptable under the new Bill. Bogus voting at branches was the norm. In June, 1984, in a ballot for the post of assistant general secretary, 11 branches actually recorded votes in excess of the number qualified.

The engineers changed to the secret postal ballot in 1972, except for elections to the Final Appeal Court. In August 1973, the East Kilbride No 3 branch recorded 204 as having voted for Mr J. S. Callan, a communist, and 11 for his non-communist opponent. Thus Mr Callan won a majority of 136 in the whole of Scotland.

When an East Kilbride No 3 member went to his branch meeting to vote on the advertised night, he was told he had mistaken the date.

He found another member who had been similarly deprived of his vote. After a long struggle, these two unusually persistent men got the case to court in November, 1974, when it was found that two branch officials had falsified signatures of branch members to produce the desired result.

This was not a stray incident. As discovered when investigating union democracy, the falsification of signatures for elections at branches of the engineers was habitual, as it was in the old ETU. Any two or three like-minded officials could, and did, arrange any election result they wanted from their branch. They could do exactly the same at branches or workplaces under the procedures about to be enshrined in the new Bill.

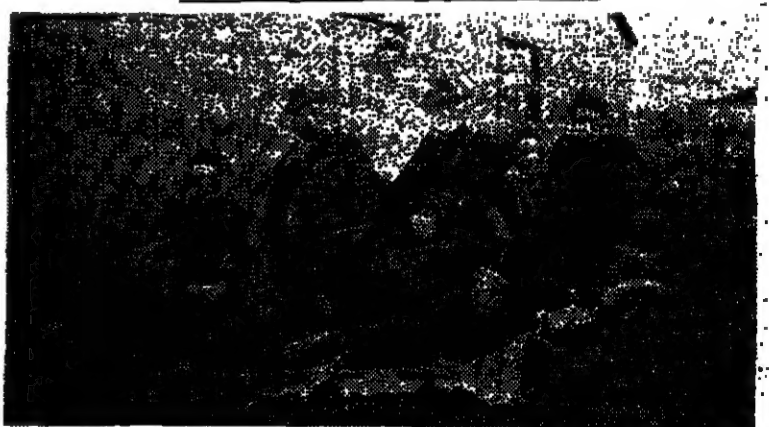
With astonishing naivety, the new Bill says that a member whose union has failed to provide a properly conducted election can apply to the courts. That right has always existed, but how many union members are there brave, dedicated and tough enough to use it?

It took five years of costly, acrimonious and arduous evidence, collected before the case of the ETU election frauds reached the High Court. The obstacles against members applying to the courts in cases of union malpractice are enormous and usually insurmountable.

Only centrally run secret postal ballots, delivered with prepaid return envelopes and completed in the calm of members' homes, are safe from the ingenious fiddles of decentralized voting. The ballot papers must be sent out by, and returned for counting to, some independent body - perhaps the Electoral Reform Society or a firm of chartered accountants.

Some unions claim they don't know who all their members are, or their addresses. It is time they found out and, if they don't know who their members are, how will they provide proper elections under the new Bill? If unions managed to supply the names and addresses of only 70 per cent of their members for postal ballots, that would do very well for a start. Government money to pay for postal ballots is available. So what is the objection? It is that Marxists, Trotskyists and communists can't get elected so easily by postal ballot.

Michael Mainwaring



Patagonian pioneers: William Halliday and family in 1903

For Caledonia read Patagonia

While teaching in the 1960s at St George's College, a public school run on British lines on the outskirts of Buenos Aires, I had the opportunity to go "down south" to Patagonia. There I met Jimmy Halliday, a sheepfarmer whose grandfather William had in the 1880s, by way of Dumfries and the Falklands, established a farm directly opposite what is now the town of Rio Gallegos.

I also met William's last surviving child, "Auntie" Mabel, in her mid-seventies, who was living in the same wooden house where she had been born in 1888.

As I listened to Mabel's "wee story" of how her parents had survived catastrophe and hardship in that uninhabited and desolate area, I borrowed diaries and documents, studied the strange and chequered history both of the Falklands and Patagonia, interviewed other settlers in the area, and started to write a book.

Later, in the sanctuary of Oxford, I heard news of the Argentine invasion of "Las Malvinas" in 1982 and wondered ruefully what Mabel Halliday's reaction would have been (she had died in December 1975). Her parents had spent 20 years on the Falklands, and her seven elder brothers and sisters had been born there, making them true "kelpers". And Mabel herself, though born in Argentina, had retained ties both with the Falklands and "back home" in Scotland.

I imagine that her first reaction, expressed in Dumfries brogue, would have been one of pity and surprise. Despite the rantings of politicians and the fervent popular belief that the islands belonged to Argentina, links between the islands and the mainland had been longstanding and beneficial to both sides.

In the 1850s the first sheep taken to the islands to be crossed with finessed British rams, and to expand into the prosperous and famous flocks, came from Argentina. Several shepherds were brought out under contract with the Falkland Islands Company - including William Halliday, who had left Dumfries in 1862 at the age of 16. In the 1880s they grew frustrated at their inability to purchase even a small area of land, due to the almost monopolistic control held by the company, and logically they looked to the vast and virgin pastures of Patagonia, only 350 miles away.

In fact the governors of the territories Magallanes in Chile and Santa Cruz in Argentina paid diplomatic visits to the islands at the time, in the hope of importing sheep and encouraging settlers.

Both governments were quick to offer reasonable, albeit tenuous, terms to shepherds wanting to lease land and willing, unlike most Argentines, to suffer the extreme hardships of the far south. The first sheep imported to the Straits of Magellan, the basis for the enormous flocks which eventually filled almost every corner of Patagonia, came from the Falklands.

In 1971 Mabel Halliday wrote to me from Rio Gallegos: "On Friday we were at the British Club to a meeting of three men from the Falklands. People can come on over and we go visiting them with no bother of passports. Everyone is pleased." Even the dispute over sovereignty seemed bound eventually to resolve itself.

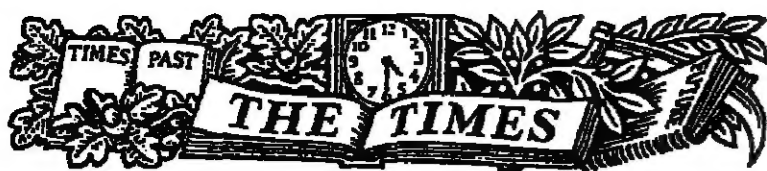
It might have come as a surprise to Whitehall that the Anglo-Argentine community throughout the Republic received little harassment during the Falklands war. The *Buenos Aires Herald*, the *Hurleston* Club, St George's College - all of them stayed open. The truth is that each successive generation, while maintaining some traditional links with British heritage, has felt less and less affinity with Britain.

Even in the 1960s, among boys of British descent at St George's, one of the greatest insults one boy could give another was to call him *Ingles*. When Mrs Thatcher responded to the Argentine invasion in such thorough fashion, the Anglo-Argentines were angry: that Britain had paid such little attention to almost 150 years of vehement Argentine claims; that the Falkland Islanders had seemed unwilling even to contemplate coexistence with Argentina; that the British had decidedly "not played cricket" in the sinking of the *Belgrano*.

Galbani's action was disastrous, but understandable. Let us hope that, after the democratic election of a new civilian government under Senator Raúl Alfonsín, we in Britain shall not continue to be led to believe, for the costly sake of the Falkland Islanders, that all Argentines are thugs.

* From the Falklands to Patagonia was published this week by Allison & Busby, price £12.95.

فكرنا من الأصل



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THE SPEAKER AND THE ALLIES

The Liberal Party has a new worry and Mr Russell Johnston has aired it in *The Times*. It arises substantially from the fact that whereas 33.3 per cent of the Social Democrats are Privy Counsellors, only 5.8 per cent of the Liberals (in the solitary shape of Mr David Steel) has that honour. Since the two out of six Social Democrats who are members of the Privy Council are Dr David Owen and Mr Roy Jenkins, they are not short of things to say or words to say them with, which makes it that much harder for an ordinary Liberal to get a word in edgeways.

The difficulty flows from two sources. First, when Privy Counsellors rise to speak in the House they customarily have precedence over ordinary backbenchers, though only at the Speaker's discretion. (There have been occasions when he has not called consecutively two Privy Counsellors who were seeking to speak.) Second, the Social Democrats are top-heavy with ex-Cabinet Ministers (automatically members of the Privy Council) and short on rank-and-file, while the Liberals are bottom-heavy with backbenchers who have never come within sight of office. Only one Liberal, Mr Steel, holds what might be called the grace-and-favour Privy Counsellorship now usually bestowed on the party's leader.

When, therefore, would-be spokesmen for the Alliance parties are vying with each other for the attention of the House, the Social Democrats have recently enjoyed a disproportionate advantage. But if the Speaker has called a Social Democrat Privy Counsellor in a

debate, must he also invariably call a Liberal? The Liberals have lately been aggrieved when he has not done so, and they told him so. The Speaker's opinion was that "the House would consider it extremely unfair if, in every debate, and given that we have 650 members, the Chair had to call a member from the Social Democratic Party and one from the Liberals."

The Speaker's discretion in the matter is absolute, though it is exercised in the light of precedent and custom. Normally he calls members from either side of the House, with third party members called in fair proportion to their numerical position in the House but also, presumably, with some regard also to the size of their support outside. As we have moved back towards a more significant third-party grouping, the Speaker's task has become harder, but even in pre-Alliance days it was not easy. In 1977, after the Lib-Lab pact under which the Liberals supported Mr Callaghan's government, the previous Speaker was asked by the Tories to take account of that fact and to accept that, though the Liberals sat on Opposition benches, their time should not come out of Opposition time.

Reminding the House that for centuries the Speaker had discretion over who caught his eye, the then Mr Speaker Thomas observed that until and unless this was taken away, he would exercise it as "fairly as I can." It is and must remain the case that there is no possible substitute for a Speaker's judgment. But if his exercise calls for the finest of arts and each day's sitting is fraught

with difficulties. Quite apart from the present difficulties of the Alliance, the customary precedence of Privy Counsellors is always a source of irritation to lesser members. For as well as the general precedence of Privy Counsellors over ordinary backbenchers, Privy Counsellors on the front-benches come first of all, which raises protest when the leader of any Opposition takes up too much of the limited time for target practice on the Prime Minister during Questions.

The current problem, however, is more party-political than procedural and it arises from an unresolved question. To what extent are the Alliance parties a single group? They are two parties and two organizations which are, if anything, growing further apart as the post-election weeks pass. But they are also one group which went to the country on a joint programme, with each party supporting the other's candidates and inviting the electors to do the same. What is more, if fairness is to be brought into the question, it is reasonable to remind Mr Johnston that the Liberals did rather better than the SDP in terms of the ratio of votes in the country to seats in the House.

The Liberals and the SDP are entitled to think the electoral system unjust but the Speaker has to act fairly on the results of the one we have. The Alliance partners could make his task easier, as well as assisting public opinion, if they addressed their minds more closely to the question whether in future they want to be considered as one group or two. At the moment, they are trying to have it both ways.

THE SINS OF THE FATHERS

Sense of nationhood depends in no small measure on the obligations which one generation accepts on behalf of both its forbears and its successors. In Britain in the 1980s we sometimes seem reluctant to pay our dues to national history. Neither political leaders nor taxpayers have shown willing in, for example, scrutinizing the heavy burden we are imposing on our successors through the generosity of the earnings-related state pensions scheme: we are making large promises to ourselves in old age which our children must meet. Likewise, we live with the consequences of our progenitors' virtues and vices. The daily comfort of many millions still rests on Victorian sanitary arrangements, on the trustworthiness of Edwardian bricklayers.

In the adjustments that must inevitably be made between generations the state must play a considerable role. It possesses the longevity often denied private firms, even families; its very existence implies guarantees made through time. Under this rubric it is appropriate for the present government to accept obligations towards inhabitants of the flawed or deteriorated housing of another age - this is the basis of what till now has been a successful programme of home improvement grants. On Thursday Mr Gow announced a bill to provide state assistance to

the private owners - former tenants who have subsequently bought their homes from councils - of houses built in the 1940s and 1950s by "non-traditional methods" of the Boot, Unity and Orbit types. The measure is welcome; but questions both of principle and administration remain unexplored.

The government proposes a generous rate of repair grant, up to 90 per cent, for owners of designated types of homes built before 1960 for public landlords; in extreme circumstances local authorities would be obliged to purchase their former property and pay owners 95 per cent of the estimated value assuming there were no defects. Such generosity raises an issue. Should the purchasers of property (and their solicitors and surveyors) not carry some of the risks of home ownership? They are quick enough to realize the capital gains.

By laying a new obligation on local authorities the government is effectively putting the owners of homes of the Orbit type near the head of the lengthy queue of claimants on public housing funds. Do other claimants deserve to be displaced? There are no guarantees that council tenants living in Orbit homes still owned by local authorities will be assisted, for their repair needs compete within the housing investment programmes. It is

conceivable that a council tenant in an Orbit home will have to live with cracked walls while his neighbour, having exercised his right to buy, has a statutory right to grants and capital gains.

A wider question is whether the government is right to act quickly for the sake of one group - victims of the 1950s building boom - when the ranks of the aggrieved in housing are still being added to. A cut-off point in 1960 has been made. Yet since that date some 150,000 dwellings have been constructed of the "timber-frame" type, an unknown proportion of which may be subject to rot. The government may yet regret the terms it proposes for Orbit owners: pre-fabricated housing of that type was not built after 1960, to be sure, but structural defects in 1960s construction is only now coming to light.

Perhaps some more general scheme of compensation for victims present and future would be a better measure, one demanding a large-scale commitment of public money over several years. The Association of Metropolitan Authorities may have exaggerated the cost of structural faults in public sector building since 1950 in putting it at £10 billion. However the total is undoubtedly large and the sooner the government recognizes its and our generational obligations the better.

NIGERIA'S TRIPLE TASK

President Shagari of Nigeria appeared during his first four years of office as an honourable man slightly out of his depth. Now that he is setting off on his second term of office, armed with a solid majority in the legislature and having dismissed all but seven of his old ministers, the question is whether he will this time prove able to turn good intentions into effective action. He and his new Cabinet face at least three daunting problems: in holding Nigeria together at all; in making sense of the economy; and in bringing under control the corruption that permeates everything.

On the first, this year's election (though there were serious malpractices) was good news in confirming that the President's National Party of Nigeria has support among almost all groups. There is some hope that, with a realigned opposition, the next election may be fought on issues rather than ethnic divisions. Fissiparous tensions still exist, however, with the memory of Biafra still fresh. The President will have to deal with an internal party dispute over its "zoning" agreement. Under this the major offices are shared among the regions. Thus the presidential candidate, having come from the north in President Shagari's case, will come from the south next time (the President himself may constitutionally only stand twice.) Some ambitious northern

politicians are fighting against this.

On the economy, the incoming Finance Minister, Malam Adamu Ciroma, a formidable political figure who has presidential ambitions himself, faces a situation that is serious rather than critical. Oil production is steady around the Opec quota of 1.3 million barrels a day (it was down to 400,000 at one stage in 1982, but was up to 2.4 million in 1980). At \$30 a barrel, this means an oil revenue of over \$10 billion a year, which should mean riches. The trouble is that oil revenue was \$20 billion a year in 1980 and plans were made on the assumption that it would rise to \$40 billion by 1985. A huge gap thus developed between planned expenditure and income, and brakes had to be slammed on in April 1982.

The new Minister's first priority will be to limit the damage that has been caused by this sudden halt: large parts of Nigerian commercial and industrial life lie in wreckage. He will probably be helped by \$2.5 billion loan coming from the World Bank. But there are more intractable long-term problems. Oil riches have wrecked Nigerian agriculture; development projects have often been more expensive and ambitious than effective and appropriate; and while a few people have grown very rich (conspicuously, with private jets and huge Mercedes), the poverty of most Nigerians

remains unaffected. The crime waves in most cities are symptoms of discontent. Extreme left-wing politics does not exist on the surface; there are no communist parties. But violent and radical men are there, waiting for the right time.

Corruption, at every level, is also a destabilising factor. A Nigerian will pay a fair price to get a passport; a contractor will pay tens of thousands to obtain a contract. "You can smuggle a train into Nigeria," a shipping agent said recently. President Shagari, against whom no one makes any allegations, personally has called for an "ethical revolution" and he has appointed to a new post, Minister of National Guidance, another political heavy-weight, Alhaji Maitama Sule, with the sole task of combating corruption. Some critics describe his job as building sandcastles against the incoming tide.

President Shagari's weakness in his first term arose from a gentleness; he did not have the ruthlessness to fire incompetent ministers or disassociate himself from party colleagues that everyone knew were corrupt. His getting rid of so many ministers now is good sign of a new toughness. It is not too much to say that the whole cause of democracy in Africa depends on his continuing to hold the line in Nigeria; to prove that an elected government can be seen to work, even under the most adverse conditions.

Competition over airline routes

From Mr Michael Grylls, MP for Surrey North West (Conservative)
Sir, William Rodgers, a former Labour Minister of Transport, asserts (November 9) that the transfer of British Airways routes to British Caledonian proposed by Sir Adam Thomson makes "best sense in terms of competition..."

Sir Adam's proposals may make sense in terms of asset-stripping, but they have nothing to do with increasing competition. Removing the right to fly on a route from one airline and transferring it to another does not create any more choice for the consumer.

What would make a better deal for the passengers would be for Sir Adam to put on additional services, thus increasing the competition, advocated by the CAA in the clear rules which they laid down in 1981.

It is worth noting that BCal already have licences to fly to Vienna, Stuttgart, Helsinki, Hanover and Cologne, but BCal are using none of them. If BCal wish to expand, they can surely expand first on routes for which they already have licences.

Could it just be, Sir, that Sir Adam, who built up his business in the lame-duck days of British Airways before Lord King made it a better airline, is simply trying to prevent privatization?

Although Sir Adam claims to be in favour of privatization, the effect of his proposal would be to make the airline unseizable, a kind of flying British Rail, a permanent liability on the unfortunate taxpayer.

British Airways is in daily competition with 40 airlines in the UK and 200 overseas. I suspect Sir Adam's real fear is that a privately owned and thoroughly efficient British Airways will offer him more competition than he cares for.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL GRYLLS, Chairman,
Conservative Backbench Trade and Industry Committee,
House of Commons,
November 9.

Jobs and inflation

From Professor F. H. Hahn, FBA

Sir, "What the Government can do about unemployment is to reduce the rate of inflation..." This opinion is taken from your leader of today (November 8). Since economists, not least the monetarists amongst them, believe that only reducing the variability of inflation can have any effects on employment it seems plain that your leader writer has some knowledge not shared by the rest of us.

It would be extremely useful if you could get him or her to contribute to the world, perhaps in your paper, exactly how a lower rate of inflation helps to reduce unemployment.

Yours faithfully,
F. H. HAHN,
University of Cambridge,
Faculty of Economics and Politics,
Sidgwick Avenue,
Cambridge,
November 8.

Temple Bar

From Mr Theodore Ruoff

Sir, Lady Sugden (October 25), who thinks that Temple Bar should stay where it is, apparently knows nothing about the present state of this remarkable ancient monument.

When I was a child, during and after World War I, it was a family ritual that, after lunch on Boxing Day, my grandfather marched all of his children down a muddy little country lane to inspect this splendid thing. He told us about some of the famous people whose heads had been spiked above its portals.

Temple Bar was then in fine state of preservation. Last week I walked down to Theobald's Park, near Enfield (the end of the lane being as muddy as ever), to see how this ancient monument, which I have loved since childhood, was faring. The roof was off. Trees were growing out of the stonework, much of which was crumbling. One entrance was blocked with corrugated metal. The statues were disintegrating. There were graffiti, some expunged. And the whole monument was surrounded by a 12 ft high meshed wire fence, topped with barbed wire, to keep out vandals.

In my opinion it is essential that this unique and valuable monument should be restored and returned to central London, whence it emanated, without delay, before any worse decay and, especially, vandalism, occurs.

Yours truly,
THEODORE RUOFF,
Flat One,
83 South Hill Park, NW3,
November 7.

Promise of fair deal for tenant farmers

From Mr F. E. Elliott

Sir, The National Farmer's Union has welcomed the publication of the Agricultural Holdings Bill and attaches great importance to its implementation during this session of Parliament. The Bill translates into legislation the contents of a joint submission made by the NFU and the Country Landowners' Association to the Minister of Agriculture in May, 1981.

This submission contained two major proposals: a new formula for the assessment of rents and the abolition of the possibility of statutory succession for tenancies granted after the coming into force of the Act.

The Government has stated that the Bill's objectives are to halt the decline in the agricultural tenanted sector and to remedy various shortcomings in the existing legislation; we fully support these objectives.

The new rent formula is needed because the present legislation bases the assessment of rents upon an "open market" which has almost entirely ceased to exist. Between 1978 and 1981 agricultural rent levels rose by almost 85 per cent whilst farm incomes fell by almost five per cent.

The continued wellbeing of the landlord/tenant system in agriculture is, I believe, threatened as much by the present rent formula as by the dearth of new holdings. The NFU believes that the present proposal will provide a sound rent formula based, inter alia, upon the productivity of the holding in question together with evidence of rents paid for comparable holdings.

Contrary to the views expressed by some of your correspondents about the nature and effect on rent levels of the new formula, the NFU has been given to understand by the professional bodies concerned, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, the Central Association of Agricultural Valuers and the Incorporated Society of Valuers and Auctioneers, that the new formula was workable and that its overall effect on the levels of rents would be minimal.

It promises a much fairer distribution of rents and its introduction will remove the sword of Damocles hanging over tenant farmers under the present system. The removal of statutory succession rights from new tenancies

will, we believe, help to create a more favourable climate for landowners wishing to let land, although we are only too aware that there are other factors involved, both fiscal and political, which are outside the scope of an Agricultural Holdings Bill.

We shall therefore continue to make the strongest representations to the Chancellor concerning the former and to oppose any suggestion that tenanted land should be nationalised.

Whilst the core of the Bill reflects the NFU/CLA agreement, it also contains a very large number of other necessary amendments to the present legislation, although regrettably it contains no reference to statutory smallholdings, which the NFU sees as a potential source of opportunities for new entrants to the industry.

Yours faithfully,
F. E. ELLIOTT, Chairman,
Parliamentary Committee,
National Farmers' Union,
Agriculture House,
Knightsbridge, SW1.

From Mr J. C. Wolton

Sir, Mr Peter Trumper and his colleagues (November 1) are quite correct in suggesting that the new rental proposals in the Agricultural Holdings Bill will not be of any assistance in preserving the landlord and tenant system.

But I fear that the problem goes much deeper than that. When a landlord lets a farm he needs to feel confident that he will regain possession at the end of the agreed term, or on the death of the tenant. The ill-considered 1976 tenancy succession legislation destroyed that confidence.

My fear is that alterations to existing legislation, which could themselves be revoked by a future Labour Government in a few years' time, will not be sufficient to create that climate of confidence which is essential if landlords are again going to be prepared to let their farms.

What is required is general acceptance of the fact that the landlord and tenant system has an important part to play, by landlords, farmers and all major political parties.

Yours faithfully,
J. C. WOLTON,
Bury St Edmunds,
Suffolk.

Sellafield emissions

From the Bishop of Carlisle

Sir, The British Council of Churches, in its submission to Mr Justice Parker at the Sellafield inquiry, opposed the planning application regarding the reprocessing plant. The first reason it put forward for advising against planning permission being granted, was "a significant degree of disagreement among experts relating to relevant technical issues."

On the Yorkshire Television programme we saw before us in the presence of Mr Mummery, of BNFL, British Nuclear Fuels, Ltd, and Professor Radford, exactly this "significant disagreement among experts." And it is not, of course, confined merely to "technical issues", but to whether the reprocessing plant, operating under standards which, it was suggested in the programme, are more lax in Britain than elsewhere, poses any threat to

the residents of the immediate area and more widely to the whole coastal environment.

The Secretary of State for the Environment's prompt action in appointing Sir Douglas Black to lead an investigation into the high incidence of cancer is to be warmly welcomed.

However, the question does remain as to whether the appointment of Sir Douglas Black, who is a physician, is adequate both to attend to the technical and environmental issues involved and also to meet the widespread public anxiety as to whether or not the reprocessing plant at Sellafield is the risk to the local community and to the wider environment that the programme and Professor Radford suggested it was.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID CARLIOL,
Rose Castle,
Dalston,
Carlisle.

Winged chariot

From Dr W. I. Pumphrey

Sir, The more scientifically minded of your readers may, perhaps, recall that some years ago my co-workers and I discovered what was then believed to be the shortest measurable interval of time. Our discovery received immediate acceptance and this basic unit is now defined in most textbooks as the interval between the traffic lights changing to green and the driver in the car behind sounding his horn.

Our more recent researches, however, have revealed the existence of an even smaller time unit, namely the interval between a red-lighted booth in a post office becoming vacant and someone behind the customer at the head of the queue appraising him of the fact.

The discovery of yet shorter intervals does not now seem impossible and one fruitful field of investigation might well be the relationship between the formation of a new Government and the abandonment of its election promises. Still smaller time units may exist in areas outside our experience and we would welcome any suggestions from your readers on this matter.

Yours faithfully,
W. I. PUMPHREY,
28 Fitzwilliam House,
The Little Green,
Richmond, Surrey.

Beinn Eighe plans

From Mr Tom Laughton

Sir, The hydroelectric project on the shores of Loch Maree strikes a chord of alarm in the hearts of the lovers of the Scottish Highlands.

A pair of ravens nest in a cleft of the rock close to the mouth of the Grudie river. Near by nest a pair of northern divers on the little island in the centre of Grudie Bay. Further down the Loch golden eagles nest within 300 yards of the shore of the loch.

The lochans in the islands resound with the cries of the otters in the breeding season. The pine martens breed amongst the ancient Scottish pines and the wildcats are seen on the higher slopes of the surrounding mountains.

In a good season the loch teems with magnificent sea trout and in the spring the salmon skirt the loch, making for the rivers at the head and up to Coulin. The rare *primula scotica* is to be found on the shores rich in lovely Highland plants. It is without question an earthly paradise.

I hope the hydroelectric board may be persuaded to think again. Their work is important, but it must not be allowed to interfere with and mar such God-given riches.

Yours sincerely,
TOM LAUGHTON,
South Beck House,
Scalby, Scarborough, Yorkshire.

Liturgical reform

From the Executive Secretary of the International Commission on English in the Liturgy

Sir, Mr Longley states: "Churches caught in a war of words" (October 24) that "the Vatican who originally insisted on one uniform English version [of the Roman Catholic liturgical texts] and which set up an international committee with representatives from every part of the English speaking world." This is simply wrong, on two counts.

Several years before the Holy See encouraged conferences of bishops sharing the same language to produce a common text for the liturgy, the bishops of the English-speaking world, including the conference of England and Wales, had already decided on their own to take such a course. To that end they, and not the Holy See, established the International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL).

The initial meeting of representatives designated by the ten conferences of bishops that founded ICEL

took place on October 17, 1963, in Rome, in the presence of the English College, with the late Archbishop Francis Grimshaw of Birmingham in the chair.

Mr Longley also states that the commission "meets from time to time in Washington, DC." This is wrong, and the implication is totally misleading. Since 1963 the episcopal board of ICEL has met once in Edinburgh, once in Toronto, six times in Rome, five times in London, and twice in Washington.

The other major body in ICEL, the advisory committee, has in the same period met once each in Montreal, Toronto, Dublin and Edinburgh, five times in Rome, six times in London, and five times in Washington. There are also six standing subcommittees of ICEL that meet once or twice a year. These have met in Washington, Rome and London.

Finally, Mr Longley reports that this commission, in the matter of "secular" or exclusive language, has "circulated a document in favour of 'the God-Mother type of change'"

in an effort to accommodate the liturgical texts to "the spirit of the age." This is again entirely wrong. The document in question makes no such proposal, nor has any such proposal been put forward by ICEL either publicly or in any internal discussions.

As Mr Longley correctly states, this commission has embarked upon a comprehensive programme to revise all the liturgical texts now in use. We are pledged to consider all comments openly and with great attention. The aim of this careful process is to improve the texts by attending to the reasonable criticisms that have been made, not to cause controversy and division as Mr Longley's piece suggests.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN R. PAGE,
Executive Secretary,
International Commission on English in the Liturgy,
1234 Massachusetts Avenue NW,
Washington, DC 20005,
USA,
November 2.

Library resources in contrast

From Bodley's Librarian

Sir, It was pleasing to read, in your issue of October 29, of the provision of large funds for the preservation effort in the Bodleian Library. It was also inevitable that I should reflect on the disparity between the resources available for that library with collections of some seven million volumes and those for the Bodleian Library, which is the next largest library in the United Kingdom with nearly five million.

To deal with problems of preservation comparable in scale the Bodleian's preservation section has a staff roughly equal to the total staff of the Bodleian, while its annual budget exceeds by some 30 per cent the total income from all sources of the Bodleian in this current year. Further, no plans are being implemented here in Oxford to provide a modern stack environment for the collections.

As a university library the Bodleian is funded, indirectly, through the University Grants Committee, which is still wrestling with the problems of reducing university expenditure. The Office of Arts and Libraries funds the Bodleian Library and has declined to assist the Bodleian in its efforts to raise money to increase expenditure on preservation.

The Bodleian is not the only library of national importance in the British university system and I am sure that my colleagues in the other such libraries join me in regretting the concentration of resources on the Bodleian Library; the strategic fragility of attempting to maintain the national collection in London was well demonstrated in the last war by the destruction there of some 250,000 volumes in a single night.

Over the last forty years replacement of these volumes has been greatly dependent on the parallel collections in the other legal deposit libraries.

It would be wrong to lessen the resources available to the British Library: what is required is the provision of funds on the same scale for the other libraries of national importance.

Yours faithfully,
J. W. JOLLIFFE, Librarian,
Bodleian Library,
Broad Street,
Oxford,
November 8.

Paper heritage

From the Director of the British Foundation for Age Research

Sir, In her letter on November 9 the Hon. Secretary of the Society of Archivists voices concern about the search for documents launched by the Foundation for Age Research and first reported in *The Times* on October 25 (Information Service).

This report obviously could not tell the whole story and did not explain that documents will be examined by Christie's manuscript department or Robson Lowe for postal history items so that they may be placed in their most appropriate auctions throughout 1984.

May I reassure the society and others who may be watching developments that, far from "raiding" existing sources of our "national memory", we hope to bring buried treasures to light and increase rather than decrease the national archive; indeed the search may save many documents from destruction. We should also not overlook the case with which original documents can be photographed and placed in record offices.

Should items of national importance be found, the appropriate authorities will have the opportunity to acquire them. We have no wish to see our paper heritage dispersed overseas.

All this will help this foundation to fund research into the many disabilities of the elderly, particularly in the fields of dementia, incontinence and lack of mobility, to the benefit of our 10 million pensioners and all who will one day be old.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN ALLFREY, Director,
The British Foundation for Age Research,
49 Queen Victoria Street, EC4,
November 9.

In for 25 pence

From Mr P. A. Spanoghe

Sir, Footnote to a statement I received yesterday from the Department of Health and Social Security: "If your present circumstances continue a Christmas bonus of £10 will be paid with the payment which covers December 1, 1983; an increase of 25p per week will be payable from your eightieth birthday."

Could this be a record-breaking pension increase? It is not explained. Bureaucratic or computer madness? I am in my eightieth year, never divulged my circumstances and not yet on the bread line.

Yours faithfully,
P. A. SPANOGHE,
Holcombe Folly,
Farnwick,
Gloucestershire,
November 3.

Slightly off

From Sir Patrick Reilly

Sir, Paul Pickering's article ("It's all right, dear, it's only blackcurrant", November 3) must have made the Chanoiné Kir turn in his grave. He was not Mayor of Lyons, but of Dijon, the home of *crème de cassis*. Nor did he drink *vin blanc au cassis*, commonly but wrongly called a "kir". The wine he drank with cassis was red.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
PATRICK REILLY,
All Souls College,
Oxford,
November 3.

THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

North Sea shuffle makes room for minnows

BP will be pleased with the £338m it is getting for the 12 per cent of Forties its taxmen shrewdly advised it to unload. The final list of 19 successful bidders was published yesterday, and prompts a number of reflections.

The first is the obvious one that closing the £1,000m tax loophole about which the Chancellor made such a fuss when the deal was first announced has not deterred would-be purchasers one jot. In retrospect the loophole was not much of a loophole, as BP always insisted.

The second point is that the Forties deal has not nearly mopped up the demand for taxable North Sea production which the industry wants to use as offsets for future exploration.

Twenty bidders were turned away and some interested groups might not have bid at all on the grounds, since amply vindicated, that the final striking price would be too high for them. The moral is that other deals must be on the way which will take chunks of mature oil fields away from the big producing companies.

The small exploration companies have voted with their feet to make their point that the North Sea tax regime - though its overall level may not be too high - is irrational and inequitable when it comes to the allocation of exploration resources. This is now beginning to be put right.

Looking down the list of successful bidders only five - Elf, Norsk Hydro, Texaco, Hispanoil and the Swedish OK cooperative - are foreign. This should be within the political tolerances of the flag-waving Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy.

Another five are Seventh Round companies, set up three years ago when Mr David Howell, the former Energy Secretary, was trying to lure non-oil



Nigel Brookes: P&O not the only target in his sights.

interests - everyone from bankers to milkmen - into high risk oil exploration. By and large their experience has not been a happy one: the Forties deal should give them a kiss of life.

The rest of the bidders are drawn mostly as you would expect from the small to medium-sized ranks of the independent British oil sector, ranging in terms of size and success from Ultramar and Charterhouse Petroleum at the top down to Candoco and Berkeley.

The two most interesting companies to have bought their way into Forties are undoubtedly RTZ and Trafalgar House. RTZ, which made a losing bid for Wytch Farm and is trying to buy BET's stake in the Maureen field, has made no secret of its desire to expand its oil interests. As for Trafalgar House, its £23m outlay on Forties confirms that P & O, though the biggest, is not the only target in Mr Nigel Brookes's sights.

Lawson sights his holy grail

Encouraging inflation figures for last month have bolstered ministers' confidence that they are at last within sight of that Holy Grail - sustained non-inflationary growth. Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, is expected to announce in his autumn statement next week that growth in 1984 should equal this year's, now put at close to 3 per cent, and inflation will ease from a peak of perhaps 6 per cent in the spring to below its present level by the end of the year.

Mr Lawson has some cogent arguments on his side. Continuing high unemployment is likely to exert a dampening influence on pay claims and there are some tentative signs that settlements may be slowing slightly in the present wage round.

Rapid productivity growth has restrained the rise in unit labour costs to its lowest level for 15 years, and looks set to continue next year. Surveys by the Confederation of British Industry show that relatively few companies plan to put up prices.

Fierce international competition is keeping up the pressure on companies to minimize or absorb higher costs to stay in

the running. Sharp increases in world commodity prices this year have had almost no impact on prices charged by industry. At the same time profits have risen by as much as a fifth.

The Chancellor's optimism has been catching on in the City. The gilt-edged market has a firm look about it. Not everyone is yet converted. Sceptics point out that it is quite usual at this stage of the economic cycle for economic growth and falling inflation to run in tandem as productivity improves. But with companies awash with cash, increasing profits, order books and a resumption of staff recruitment they argue that pressures for higher pay settlements will eventually become irresistible.

Add to that a cyclical pick up in global inflation as the world economy extends its moderate recovery, perhaps coupled with a weakening of sterling, and the stage could be set for a spurt in prices before next year is out.

Mr Lawson will be putting his faith in the discipline of tough financial policies to ensure this does not happen. The money, for the time being, is on him.

European Ferries to sell Singer & Friedlander

By Graham Searjeant

The rapidly changing financial services industry received another surprise last night when European Ferries, the shipping to property conglomerate, announced that it was putting its banking subsidiary, Singer & Friedlander, up for sale.

Singer & Friedlander is a second rank merchant bank with assets of £37m at the end of 1982 and profits of about £4.5m.

But it is a member of the prestigious Accepting Houses Committee, which enhances its status both with the Bank of England and in world financial markets and is therefore not likely to be short of would-be buyers. European Ferries is hoping for a price of at least £50m.

The sale is the first tangible

move to restructure European Ferries after the sudden death of its former chairman, Mr Keith Wickenden, in a flying accident in July.

His successor, Mr Ken Siddle, is known to want to simplify the business and also make it less vulnerable to a predatory takeover. The company will also need cash, particularly to develop Felixstowe Dock if it is chosen as a freeport.

The European Ferries board said last night that it wanted to concentrate its management and financial resources in the shipping, harbour and property sectors and had decided to sell the bank "notwithstanding the major contribution which Singer & Friedlander has made to the group in recent years, its

present growth and its excellent prospects".

European Ferries bought 92.5 per cent of Singer from the Bowring insurance group for £23.5m in 1980. The rest is owned by management. Singer has already had various owners, including the Sime Darby plantations conglomerate.

Ironically, another merchant bank, S G Warburg, will now have the job of arranging a private sale in consultation with Singer directors.

The sale comes at a moment when the rise of international money brokers and particularly the impending changes in the structure of the Stock Exchange have opened up the financial services industry. This has set off a search for new partner-

ships and combinations that will result in a number of diverse financial service groups being created.

Within the past few days, Mr Jacob Rothschild's RIT and Northern group announced a merger with the Charterhouse Group, which also includes an accepting house. Citicorp, one of the world's top banks has bought into the stockbroking and investment group Vickers da Costa and BAT, the tobacco group, bid for Eagle Star insurance. Mr Anthony Solomons, chairman of Singer & Friedlander, said last night that "a UK institutional buyer would be ideal for us. There are one or two people we have been talking loosely to. If they were the buyers, I would be delighted."

C&W stake in \$180m China deal

By Jonathan Davis

Financial Correspondent

Cable & Wireless has signed a joint venture agreement with the Chinese to provide the public telephone system for a city of skyscrapers the Chinese plan for the borders of Hong Kong.

The company announced yesterday that it is taking a 49 per cent stake in a new company, Shenda Telephone, which will spend \$180m between now and the end of the century on telephones for the fast growing City of Shenzhen, one of the special economic zones established to attract controlled foreign investment.

The deal comes four months after Cable & Wireless signed a similar joint venture to provide telecommunications services for the fledgling Chinese offshore oil industry, and marks a further consolidation of the company's business links with the Chinese from its long established trading base in Hong Kong.

Mr Eric Sharp, the chairman, said yesterday that the new venture was "an exciting challenge". The population of Shenzhen should grow from 200,000 to 800,000 by the year 2000, and Mr Sharp said the aim was to provide one telephone for every four inhabitants by then.

The remaining equity in the new company is to be taken by the Chinese, in the form of the local telecommunications authority and the city itself.

The joint venture agreement will last 20 years initially. Work has already begun on expanding the existing Shenzhen telephone network, which is expected to double its capacity by the end of this year.

£3m offer at Danish Bacon

By Jonathan Clare

Eas-Food, the Danish slaughterhouse co-operative, is offering about £3m to buy up the shares of the Danish Bacon Company which it does not already own. Danish Bacon's ordinary shares are quoted on the London stock market and represented about 42 per cent of the company's total equity. They are mainly held by the big institutions.

Talks between Eas-Food and Danish Bacon started last month and represented an about-face by the Danish co-operative. Originally, Eas-Food told Danish Bacon that it intended to sell direct to the British market. But subsequently five of the 16 slaughterhouses in the co-operative said they intended to leave and sell direct on their own accounts. Britain is Denmark's biggest and most important market for its pork, and upheavals in marketing methods reflect low pork prices and lower demand.

Eas-Food's offer is likely to succeed. The British Government's total exposure to Brazil through guarantees is believed to be about \$1.5 to \$2 billion. This is a large proportion of total British lending to Brazil, officials claim. They argue that it justifies Britain's refusal to grant new trade credit guarantees to Brazil.

Lord Montgomery, vice chairman of the British-Brazilian Parliamentary Group, said: "The British share of the market is now less than 2 per cent and, without new credits in place, it is very difficult to see how British industry is going to avoid sliding back further."

Lord Montgomery, who was in Brazil recently as managing director of the Terimar Consultancy said: "I was trying to construct a plan for several companies over the next five years, which would have included investment. This decision means that such plans will be aborted."



Lord Montgomery: "plans will be aborted."

The Paris Club rescheduling of Brazil's official debts - due to begin on November 21, three days after an IMF rescue package is expected - will be much larger than originally thought.

According to US sources, revised figures show Brazil's official debt at about \$10 billion and the amount to be resched-

£16m cash call from Aitken Hume

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Aitken Hume Holdings, the financial group part-owned by the Aitken family, took the stock market by surprise yesterday with a £16.6m rights issue to help pay for its latest acquisition.

Aitken Hume is buying National Securities & Research Corporation (NSR), the American fund managers, as part of its determined expansion into North America. It already owns 4.9 per cent but the rest will cost \$32.6m (£22m). The rights issue will provide \$25.2m of this and bank loans the rest.

The group's shares slipped from 180p to 160p at one point, reflecting the size of the issue. Up to 12.4 million new shares are being issued on the basis of three new ones at 140p for every two held. Including a separate issue of 1.28 million shares to Middle Eastern investors in return for their minority in the merchant banking subsidiary, the group's issued share capital will more than double from 8.3 million to 21.9 million.

However, the half-year results showing pretax profits up from £790,000 to £1,486m in the six months to September 30, a 2p net interim dividend and forecast of a two-thirds increase to 6p for the whole year helped to lift shares back to 165p.

The cash demands of TV-am are preventing three directors from taking up all their rights. Mr Jonathan Aitken, his cousin Timothy and Mr Michael



Jonathan Aitken: not taking up all his rights

Scorrey who are shareholders in TV-am through another company, control nearly 25 per cent of Aitken Hume. But they are, in effect, taking up only 500,000 of their 3 million entitlement.

Percy Turbutt and Co with River Plate and General Investment Trust are underwriting £1.8 million of the 3 million. The Middle Eastern shareholders will help to pay for a further 700,000 of the remainder.

Mr Scorrey said yesterday: "We've put as much as we can into this situation. Obviously if as much money had not been put into TV-am, more would have been available for other things."

The acquisition will increase funds under management from £150m at present to £1.35 billion.

Hanson to head Trident

By Philip Robinson

Lord Hanson is to take over as chairman of Trident Television this month, after a management buyout which disposes of the non-gambling interests of the company. His appointment, and the buyout deal, will require shareholders' approval at a special meeting on November 29.

Trident, which operates the Clermont Club and the Victoria Sporting Club, in London, is selling Windsor Safari Park, Warrs & Corry, a television scenery maker, and certain film and television programmes to a consortium of Trident executives.

They are led by Mr George Ward Thomas, who will resign as chairman and managing director of Trident but remain on the board. He will be paid £83,000 compensation for loss of office.

Lord Hanson said in a statement: "The activities sold do not contribute significantly to profit but make disproportionate demands on management time. Our object now is to continue the successful development of our London casino interest."

Trident, whose shares closed up 15p last night, recently sold the freehold of the former Playboy Club to a Jersey company called Deolar. Lord Hanson emerged as the owner of the Park Lane premises

Dow Jones advance

New York (AP - Dow Jones)

Shares renewed their advance in early trading yesterday with The Dow Jones Industrial Average moving up more than 8 points to 1243. Mr Newton Zinder, first vice-president at E. F. Hutton, said: "Stocks are holding to a narrow trading range on this holiday and volume will probably be the lightest since before Labour Day."

General Motors was 75 1/2 up 1/2; International Business Machines 126 1/2 up 1/2; General Electric 54 1/2, unchanged.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 725.1 up 4.5
FT 100 Index 83.70 up 1.15
FT All Shares 453.48 up 4.51
Barringtons 19.750
Deutschebank US\$ Leaders
Index 96.51 up 0.17
New York: Dow Jones
Average: (latest) 1245.08 up 9
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones
Index 9,305.63 up 61.39
Hongkong: Hang Seng
Index 844.94 up 7.57
Amsterdam: 150.5 up 1.4
Sydney: AO Index 712.4 up 3.4

Frankfurt: Commerzbank
Index 1015.8 down 0.3
Brussels: General Index
122.88 unchanged
Paris: CAC Index 1421.1
unchanged
Zurich: SKA General 290 up 0.8

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling \$1.4875 down 30pts
Index 84.1 up 0.2
DM 3.9825 up 0.0175
FrF 12.11 up 0.05
Yen 360.50 down 0.75

Dollar Index 128.0 up 0.5
DM 2.0765

NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.4875
Dollar DM 2.6740

INTERNATIONAL
ECU 5.70471
SDR 2.709885

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$381.15 pm \$382
close \$381.75-\$382.50
(255.75-\$257.25)
New York (latest): \$382
Kruggerand (per coin):
\$383.354.50 (\$264.50-\$265.50)
Sovereigns (new):
\$89.25-\$90.25 (\$260-\$260.75)
Excludes VAT

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gilts ride high on optimism

Government stocks continued their strong advance towards last year's high levels yesterday although still a long way from the peaks achieved in the 1930s.

There were gains of up to nearly £2 as optimism grew about the economic outlook ahead of next week's financial statement by the Chancellor.

The slowdown in the October inflation rate also helped. A new £1,000m "short" tap caused little surprise. The £97 party paid 1989 tender stock carries a 10 per cent coupon. First payment is £20 per cent on tender; then £40 per cent on December 14 and the rest on January 16.

The strength of gilts helped equities higher after an indifferent start.

Estimated of Britain's growth rate in the first half of this year have been revised down by nearly half a percentage point the Central Statistical Office announced yesterday. National output (gross domestic product at factor cost) was 2.8 per cent higher than a year earlier, compared with the previous estimate of 3.2 per cent.

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 8
Finance houses base rate 10
Discount market loans week fixed 9/8-9
3 month interbank 9/16-9/4

Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 9/16-9/16
3 month DM 6/8-8
3 month Fr F134-13

US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9/4
Treasury long bond 102/32-102/16

ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV
Average reference rate for interest period 5 October to November 1, 1983 inclusive: 9.393 per cent.

Tebbit clears the way for battle over Eagle Star

By Jeremy Warner

The battle for control of Eagle Star, Britain's sixth biggest insurer, began in earnest yesterday when Mr Norman Tebbit, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, cleared from threat of a Monopolies and Mergers Commission reference two record cash offers for the group.

Allianz Versicherungs, the West German insurance company which began the bidding, is expected to top an offer of £76m from BAT Industries, the tobacco and retailing combine, which had the backing of Eagle Star, with a new all-cash bid next week.

It had been waiting for formal clearance from the Trade and Industry Department before deciding whether to proceed.

Mr James Ruffell and Mr John Matthews, presidents of the Coats Patons and ICI subsidiaries in Sao Paulo, are to meet Department officials later this month.

They and other executives are to four Britain to advise companies on business prospects in Brazil.

The Department of Trade and Industry, faced with complaints from industry, is understood to be ready to add its protest against the Treasury decision.

Companies are astonished that, having given a new £250m export credit to Iraq last month, the Treasury continues to refuse half that amount to Brazil.

Both Allianz and BAT also received technical clearance yesterday under the Insurance Companies Act 1982, and with the BAT formal offer document expected to be despatched early next week, all the main obstacles to a higher offer from Allianz are removed.

On the stock market, Eagle Star shares jumped 32p to 644p adding £44m to the group's value. At this level, the company is worth almost £900m.

Ministers discussed the possibility of referring the bids at a full Cabinet meeting on Thursday and it is understood the two only narrowly escaped a Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigation despite a recommendation by the Director General of Fair Trading that both be allowed to proceed.

Treasury ruling alarms companies

Ban 'may kill sales to Brazil'

By John Lawless and Peter Williams-Smith

Directors of leading British companies in Brazil are to warn the Department of Trade and Industry that United Kingdom sales there are in danger of being wiped out because the Treasury is refusing to extend fresh export credits.

Mr James Ruffell and Mr John Matthews, presidents of the Coats Patons and ICI subsidiaries in Sao Paulo, are to meet Department officials later this month.

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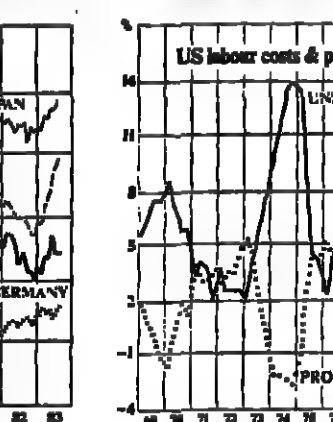
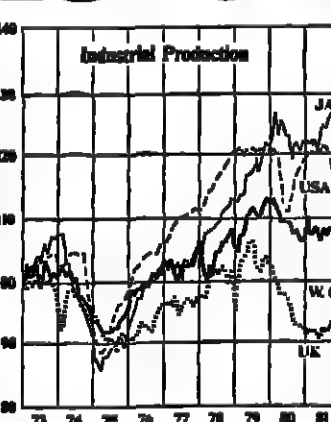
The British Government's total exposure to Brazil through guarantees is believed to be about \$1.5 to \$2 billion. This is a large proportion of total British lending to Brazil, officials claim. They argue that it justifies Britain's refusal to grant new trade credit guarantees to Brazil.

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In the USA the Dow Jones Index is hitting record levels because consumer spending is up, yet industrial recovery can't be far behind.

In Japan the Stock Exchange is at an all time high as a result of a boom in exports. Further rises can be expected as home markets develop.

While in the UK, too, the Stock Market is high, even before most British companies have exploited the healthier condition they have been forced into by the recession.

The high stock market indices around the world demonstrate the faith that professional investors have in the strength of the revival still to come.

For the private investor, however, the problem in the short and the long term still remains one of stock selection.

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The value of this worldwide representation has already proved effective in selection of recovery stocks for other Kleinwort Benson funds such as Delta (investing in the US), Japan Fund and the UK Smaller Companies Fund.

Currently we have £2.5bn under management.

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Remember the prices of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

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Annual Income Distribution: Date: Interim 14 July commencing 1984/85 and 14 January commencing 1985.

Gross estimated sterling yield: 2% p.a.

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Traded Options: The Fund is authorised to purchase "call" and "put" options and to write call options on authorized investments.

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20 Fenchurch Street, London EC3P 3DB. Tel: 01-623 8000.

I/We enclose a cheque for £..... (minimum investment £1,000) payable to Kleinwort Benson Unit Managers Limited for purchase of units in the Kleinwort Benson International Recovery Fund at the offer price ruling on receipt of this application and subject to the discount advertised.

☐ tick box for reinvestment of income I am/We are over 18.

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10 PAGES OF
NEWS AND VIEWS
TO HELP YOU
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Eating Out goes Mexican;
Values: Beryl Downing on
personalized presents

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Music and Dance

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crossword; Bridge; Chess;
Collecting; The Week Ahead;
Out and About; At Home

12-18 NOVEMBER 1983 A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE, ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

SKI TIPS

Skiing has come a long way since a prehistoric hunter first strapped wood to his feet. Now there is powder skiing, piste skiing, Nordic skiing, freestyle skiing, adventure skiing; all part of the modern hunt for excitement. Today, as the annual Ski Show opens at Earls Court, we present a four-page review of the snow business

In the beginning, skiing was about hunting and survival. A Norwegian skier of about 2500 BC is pictured in a rock carving wearing long, rabbit ears which are thought to be some kind of hunting magic. Supernatural powers would certainly have been needed by the three Russian skiers carved in rock near the White Sea around 1000 BC. In their part of the world winter temperatures are commonly 40 below, and the poor fellows are plainly naked. Not men, but gods perhaps?

All the earliest references to skiing are Scandinavian. The oldest written testimony is a sixth-century account of the Skridfinns, or gliding Finns. Another six centuries later, Saxo, a Danish historian, described how the Finns went to war on skis. Lapps, Swedes and Norwegians did likewise, and the earliest skiing competitions were military exercises. In 1689 white winter uniforms, reversible to green for summer, were issued to Norwegian ski troops.

America, Australia and New Zealand all flirted with skiing about 20 years before it penetrated the mountains of Switzerland and Germany. In 1856 "Snowshoe" Thompson, who was born Jon Thorsteinson in the Telemark district of Norway, earned a place in history by making the first of many winter journeys alone across the Sierra Nevada carrying the US mails. His home-made oak skis were nearly 10ft long.

In the first half of the nineteenth century it was in the Nordic countries that skiing developed as a sport, with cross-country skiing and ski-jumping the competitive events. Not until the final decade of the century did the Swiss, Germans and British begin to show real interest in the new activity.

The event that sent a buzz of excitement across Europe was the first successful crossing of Greenland made in 1888 by Fridtjof Nansen. Wearing oak skis, his party explored the island from east to west. From the coast they dragged their sledges up to a height of 8,858 feet before running down the other side with the wind and gradient to speed them.

In 1891 Nansen's book came out in English and German: ski clubs were started in Munich, Vienna, Todtnau and Mürzzuschlag. At first the excitement of Alpine skiing was about ski mountaineering. The emphasis was on the new freedom skis gave to traverse the Alps in winter. It was more about going up the mountains than sliding down them.

Techniques for controlling skis on steep slopes had yet to be devised. The first recorded demonstration of the "snow-plough" or stem system of braking was in 1893; and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, already in his fifth season skis, crossed the Furka Pass in the Swiss Alps on a journey from Davos to Arosa. For tricky bits of the downhill section he lashed his skis together into a sort of sledge.

In the winter of 1898 Doctor (later Sir Henry) Lunn, a missionary turned tour operator, took a party of British holiday-makers, six pairs of Swiss skis and a Swiss mountain guide to Chamoinix in the French Alps. Forty-two of his clients, two of the pairs of skis and numerous toboggans posed for a group photograph of that first packaged skiing holiday.

Right from the beginning winter sports attracted a wealthier crowd than those who took summer holidays on the Continent, and to circumvent their aversion to being labelled Lunn's tourists, the ingenious doctor founded The Public Schools Alpine Sports Club. In 1903, the same year that Henry Lunn organized the first races for the Public Schools Winter



Photomontage: Michael Bennett



Wobblers and goggles: Today's chic replaces yesterday's charm

Sports Challenge Cup, the Ski Club of Great Britain held an inaugural dinner at the Cafe Royal.

That first competition included skating and tobogganing as well as skiing and it was not until 1911 that the skiers competed for their own trophy, the Kandahar Cup. When Sir Henry's son Arnold came to found a club for the promotion of downhill and slalom racing, he called it the Kandahar Ski Club after the race and the man who had presented its first trophy, Lord Roberts of Kandahar, VC, KG, OM, who in 1880 had marched from Kabul to raise the siege of Kandahar.

In a leading article published on New Year's Day 1937, The Times noted that skiing had usurped the older winter sports in popularity. "The development of winter sports from a novelty into a habit (for those who have the time and money) is complete, and in the process the method of winter sporting has crystallized. With all allowance for the splendour of fast running on skis, has it crystallized in an entirely satisfactory form?"

Skiing, the article continued,

had "encroached on the other sports, put an end to tailing, lugging, and ski-joring, and reduced curling and skating to sectarian occupations. The competitive interest, complete with ties and tests, broke out at the Kandahar Cup, and the ferocity of the Black Death."

One man who lamented loudly what he called "the decadence of a noble sport" was another distinguished soldier, Montgomery of Alamein.

Writing to the editor of The Times from the Kandahar Club, Murren, in 1950, Montgomery said: "I first began to ski in 1925, and in my opinion the general standard of skiing was far higher in those days than it is today. By 'skiing' I mean, of course, real skiing, not rattling down prepared pistes."

"In 1925 a man was regarded as a good skier if he could find his way about the mountains and if he could run fast and steadily on all kinds of snow—soft snow, breakable crust, and unbreakable crust. Today, the one standard of excellence appears to be speed down a prepared course from which every vestige of natural snow has been removed: the result is

that modern skiers are for the most part incompetent in soft snow and, therefore, inferior to their predecessors."

He went on to attribute this decline to the commercial interests of ski instructors who could earn more money, faster, by sticking to practice slopes.

In 1954 The Times reported that 35,000 winter sports enthusiasts were expected to holiday abroad that winter compared with 75,000 before the war. The figure today is nearer half a million, and the social class of those who travel is no longer the matter for comment that it still was in the 1950s.

In the main, winter sports parties from Britain follow much the same social pattern as before the war. The public schools and universities are strongly represented, as ever, and some of the keenest skiers continue to be found among Navy, Army and R.A.F. officers. But travel agents are noticing a decided increase in the numbers of nurses and teachers who are taking up skiing...

Surely these were not the new recruits whose scruffy dress provoked Robin Blandford of the Kandahar Club to write to The Times in 1959: "On numerous occasions during my stay abroad I encountered English people on the slopes and in the hotels in supposed skiing dress that wouldn't have done credit to a tramp. In a fashionable skiing resort, this type of appearance is most unworthy of our British tradition and certainly displays us at our worst."

Today, no one talks of skiing running any more, and only a tiny proportion of the thousands who are looking forward to a week or two of piste-bashing in the coming season belong to a ski club. And if anyone writes to the paper about skiing today it is more likely to concern

damage to the alpine environment caused by the proliferation of lifts and beds than to comment on the class of person one meets on the slopes.

Techniques and equipment have changed as radically over the years, as the costumes and manners once thought appropriate to winter sports. Colleagues still say "Don't break a leg" when you head for the mountains. But that is no longer

the most likely accident. Equipment, especially boots and bindings, has become so sophisticated that it takes real foolhardiness or rotten luck to end up with a limb in plaster. No, the growing danger is the high speed at which even staid, recreation skiers now travel when this is combined with the crowds on the pistes. Collision accidents—resulting in split heads, not broken ankles, are

the hazard to be avoided these days.

The resurgence of cross-country skiing is as much a reaction against the razzmatazz of downhill piste-bashing as against its risks. Ski mountaineering and ski touring too are subjects of increasing interest, as those who enjoy being in the mountains as much as the excitement of downhill skiing seek out quieter pleasures.

Ski racers thrill millions as they hurtle downhill at speeds which are frightening to contemplate. Slalom skiers, jumpers, and free-stylers demonstrate skills that the week-end two-day holiday skier can only admire from the sidelines or in front of a television screen. And if I'm out there, I would rather be skiing.

Shona Crawford Poole

ADVENTURERS

Heavenly runs on powdery reaches

own winding mark on an untouched mountain side.

The handbook on heli-skiing issued by Candian Mountain Holidays gives a frank warning that there are risks. Avalanche is an ever-present danger despite the shrewd and long-experienced watch kept by the guides, and 10 skiers have been killed by avalanche in the 19 years the company has been operating.

They also calculate that for every 14,000 skier days, one person will break a leg. "This is mountain skiing in a totally uncontrolled environment," the brochure says. "It is not just powder-skiing, it is skiing on unbroken snow. This can mean anything from the best snow you have ever experienced to the worst. The skiing can be very difficult at times. Unless you are

prepared to accept this, please don't come."

This caveat accepted, the advantages are great. Skiing is done from a series of comfortable lodges far out in the wilds and the company gives a money-back guarantee of 100,000 feet of ski descent, covered in the package price.

According to David Brooks-bank, of Powder Skiing in North America, a skier will cover on average 140,000 vertical feet in a good week—paying for the extra per thousand vertical metres. "The best we did was 45,000 feet in one day. It was superb. The scenery is magnificent and the sense of remoteness really spectacular," he says. Each group is led by a very experienced guide. The runs are generally 3,000 feet each and with brisk helicopter logistics it

is possible to fit in eight runs on a good day. It depends on the strength of your legs.

"Fitness is rather more important than deep-snow ability. That can be taught although it is best to be able to handle any sort of snow conditions before trying this kind of skiing," David Brooks-bank says.

There are other ways a skier seeking to escape the piste and après-ski circle can do so. In Scandinavia where skiing is as much a form of transport as it is a sport there are many fine cross-country courses through rolling water countryside. There is a quiet, purposeful rhythm to moving on the lightweight Scandinavian skis with their curious loose-heel bindings.

Mr John Noble, managing director of Travellers, believes that an average competent piste skier should be able to master the loping style of the Scandinavian skier without too many problems and derive great satisfaction from a more subtle skiing dimension. Noble, a long-experienced mountaineering instructor, Antarctic survey

Continued on page 2

ADVERTISEMENT

Lebman, Master Vintner of Noilly Prat, has been put under a spell by the herbist R. Henning.

R.H. "You can make me a nice man Lebman! How can Noilly Prat taste so good, yet dry?"

Lebman: [Frustrated] "Rare plants, my legs, from 4 continents imbue its crisp white wines with a potent herbal note..."

Hugo the Cooper [Bewitched] "Did you write this Lebman? ... 'choice Pignol and Clarette wines drenched in Mediterranean sun for over a year are radiant of the mellow stones of their numberless casks of oak...!'"

Hugo [cont.] "... They are not numberless Lebman, I have to build them! ... you'll be inviting them to our Inner Sanctum next to see our secret herbs!"

R.H. [silly] "... Secret herbs? ... Inner Sanctum? ... Hum..."

[NEXT: Report Henning penetrates Noilly Prat's Inner Sanctum disguised as an ethereal being]

FRENCH DRY. DIFFERENT.

SKI-TRAVEL/3

study, and a few more mistakes, we now usually opt for Austria. Austrian villages are small, so the children can't get lost. The ski slopes are gentle, the instructors usually speak English, and every ski school has a children's class. Some resorts, such as Mayerhöfen in the Zillertal, cater especially well for small children and have ski kindergartens which look after them from early morning until bedtime.

But the real advantage of Austria is that there is plenty for the children to do apart from skiing. They can skate, go for sleigh-rides, hire a sledge for a little tobogganing or, as most Austrian resorts have a sports centre, retire from the slopes entirely and spend all day splashing about in a heated indoor pool.

Just remember to pack their swimsuits and half your problems may be over. As most Austrian holidays are based in hotels, they soon find other children to play with.

Austrian nightlife also goes down a storm with the children, who will wait all year to spend another evening watching "The Woodchopper's Tanz". Throw in hot chocolate and a few sticky cakes at the end of the day, and it becomes a children's paradise.

If you go to France, where downhill skiing is the big thing and the nightlife is more restricted, or anywhere else, then a few more precautions are advisable. Pack plenty of games to stave off television starvation in the evening. If two families can get together, why not hire a chalet? Here the chalet girls will be on hand to cook the kind of food that British children actually eat and is available for afternoon teas and a spot of babysitting.

Once the country and the style of holiday have been settled, the next problem is to choose a suitable resort. It is a good idea to find somewhere where all the slopes are on the same mountain, so that the family can meet up for lunch and for that obligatory coffee and cake after class, without too much trouble. If the resort has a ski kindergarten with English-speaking instructors and other English children in the class, so much the better.

The golden rule, though, is to make the skiing fun and not a chore. One sure way to do this is to take The Fiddler. When our children have a friend along, we hardly see them at all during the day. They are in class, off exploring, throwing snowballs or simply falling about, and only come back, wet and cheerful, for tea or to borrow more money.

Having got them out there willingly enough, your next task is to keep them happy and comfortable for the duration. We spend hours in the hire shop



Making tracks: A boy gets poptoyed in Quebec (top) and Nordic skiing in the Jura mountains

Rounding up friends for a bargain holiday

GROUP DEALS

on the first day making sure that their boots fit properly and that their skis are not too heavy. After years of prowling the slopes like St Bernards at the end of the afternoon, retrieving their gloves, hats, goggles and glasses from the snow, we now ensure that every item of clothing is tied to their persons with tape.

This provokes howls of outrage, but it prevents frustration. Finally, before we push them out the door each morning, we give them enough money for frequent snacks and drinks during the day. This always goes down well.

Alexandra is older now and looks forward eagerly to her annual ski trip, which is rather more than we do, for as the children get larger so do the bills. But then, that's the price you pay for starting them early on the ski slopes, and whatever the cost, it's worth it.

Rob Neillands

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GOING NORDIC

Because downhill skiing is an industry it has generated its own particular brand of pollution - one of the mountain landscape by drab, modern, concrete resorts, unsightly ski lifts and the sheer press of people. The more discerning skiers are often heard to say: "Of course, we get away from it all by doing most of our skiing off-piste".

Downhill skiers have recently been deserting in droves to escape to the relative tranquillity and simplicity of Nordic or cross-country skiing. This pastime has flooded over from its native Scandinavia into the Alps where it has caught on fast - there are now 10,000km of cross-country ski trails in Austria - while in Scotland it is a serious rival to downhill. The equipment is incredibly light, simple and cheap compared to that needed for downhill, with the complete outfit costing only £50 to £100. The narrow skis weigh only 2-4 lb and should be metal-edged; the "fish scale" or no-wax sole enables you to ski uphill without the chore of waxing. The binding holds the toe loosely to the ski and the boots or shoes are as light as a walking shoe, in sharp contrast to the plastic monstrosities with which the downhill people hobble themselves.

Nordic skiing is sometimes described as simply "walking on skis" but, of course, there is much more to it than that. The heel is free to lift to permit the walking or gliding gait but it cannot be held down to facilitate downhill turns. This point is important. The effect is

that cross-country skis are difficult to control going down the sort of slope used by downhill skiers.

Downhill and Nordic skiers therefore naturally head in different directions. The downhill resorts are sited near the big, steep Alpine mountain-sides whereas the Nordic skier is looking for gently rolling hills and wants distance rather than height. Outside Scandinavia, which is ideal country, suitable terrain is to be found in such places as the Jura and the Massif Central. Nordic skiing is also far less gregarious because the participants spread themselves thinly over the countryside, like summer hikers.

In the Jura, for example, the skier might base himself on a small village and spend a few days following the local ski trails. These will be carefully graded both for length and difficulty. A move might then be made to another village, a change being useful but not essential.

Alternatively, one of the superb long-distance traverses might be followed. This is the exact counterpart of a long-distance footpath in summer with many of the same problems and challenges. You need

On breathtaking routes among the giants

to be reasonably fit, able to read a map and carry a rucksack with your overnight things and a few necessities - a burden avoided by the village-based skier.

I traversed more than 100 miles of the Jura with a friend in the spring, covering most of the distance between Basle and Geneva. We started in Switzerland on Le Haut Jura and ended up in France on Le Grande Traversée. Both routes were thoughtfully laid out to avoid steep hillsides and to give breathtaking views of the Alps from Mont Blanc to the giants of the Bernese Oberland. Most of the route was discreetly waymarked.

We averaged between 15 and 20 miles a day, starting in mid-week, we did not meet more than half a dozen skiers in the first three days. The weekends were busier, particularly in France, but we never found ourselves in a crowd.

It took a couple of days for our muscles to attune to the pushing, sliding lunge which is so important if you are to cover the ground well. We then revelled in the solitude and beauty, gliding through the pine forests and along the high ridges.

On the trail we met all sorts. Sometimes there would be a cluster of skis behind us and a fit, sweating young man would go whizzing past, driving hard and fast like a cross-country runner in training. At the other end of the spectrum, on local trails, we saw plenty of family groups, including grandmothers,

Cordon bleu and a little psychology

CHALET STAY

Chalets offer the most attractive way for the ardent skier to have a good holiday at a reasonable price, which is why this part of the winter sports market has blossomed in recent years. But it is as well to be aware of what you are getting for your money.

The majority of chalet holidays are available in the big French resorts, such as the Trois Vallées and Val d'Isère, though an increasing number are appearing in certain Swiss resorts, notably Verbier. They offer access to top-quality skiing in congenial surroundings at a price which cannot be matched by the hotels in such resorts.

The capacity of chalets ranges from six to around 40. Accommodation mainly consists of twin-bedded rooms, though occasionally multiple occupancy is available for families, plus adequate living space for relaxing in the evening. Standard provisions are a good breakfast, much-needed tea when you stagger off the slopes and a cordon bleu dinner with more than sufficient wine.

This combination is the nearest most of us will ever get to having our own place on the slopes, complete with service. One can go as an individual family, form a small party, or simply go to a larger place in the same way as to a hotel.

Whatever arrangement you choose, it is important to accept that there are essential differences between a chalet and a hotel. Because the chalets are run almost entirely by girls recruited in England, the relationship between guests and staff is inevitably more personal and the arrangements can be a little haphazard.

In a small chalet, the relationship with the chalet girls can have an important influence on the holiday. Like all personal relations this requires effort on both sides. Our experience on a family has been good, but I have heard less favourable reports from both sides of how friction can build up over a fortnight.

The problems, such as they are, revolve around little things. Continued on page 4

Mike Banks



In Britain the specialists in cross-country ski tours are Waymark Holidays, 295 Lillie Road, London SW6 7LL (01-855 5015).

Information on French cross-country skiing can be obtained from Association Nationale des Centres-scolaires et Foyers de Ski de Fond (ANCEFSF) BP 112, 05000 GAP RP, France; and on Swiss skiing from Arbeitsgemeinschaft L.L./SSV, PO Box 11923, Bern, Switzerland.

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None of this has been sufficient to spoil the chalet holidays we have taken. The

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Bill Burroughs

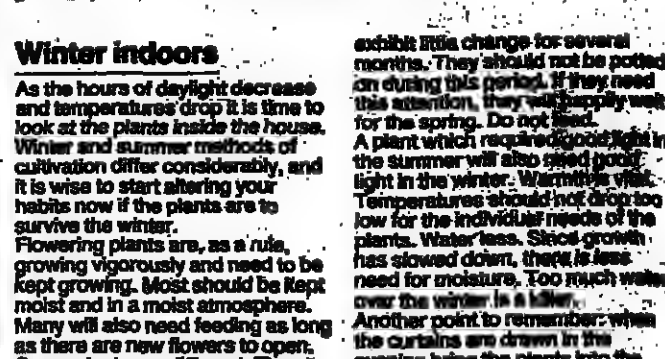
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يَكْنِزُ مِنَ الْأَرْضِ

Opportunist with limitless contempt for humankind

Mussolini by Denis Mack Smith (Penguin, £2.95)

"He was not simply a solitary, but a misanthrope with an abysmal view of human nature that discounted altruism and idealism. He assumed that everyone was utterly selfish and nearly everyone incompetent and untrustworthy; this was another point of agreement he found with Machiavelli — the supreme master of politics and perhaps the greatest of all Italian philosophers, although he thought Machiavelli did not go far enough in his contempt for humankind."

Thus Mack Smith, in a few characteristically well chosen words, summarizes Mussolini. It is a verdict no one would challenge after reading this extraordinary biography. The life of Mussolini is all the more remarkable for the way in which it has been overshadowed by that of Hitler.

Yet it was Mussolini who claimed to have invented the very term "fascist", then as now a shifting and meaningless marker of political conviction. An early revolutionary communist, his hatred of democracy and thirst for dictatorship may have convinced him at one time that the tenets of *dictatorship* represented a new school of



Mussolini: Machiavellian in his thirst for absolute power

politics. But by the desperate end, he was forced to admit that fascism was simply opportunism; it embraced anything that would help *Il Duce* stay in power.

Mack Smith's able commentary concentrates, correctly, on the pre-war period, when Mussolini was at his most powerful and when his vision of an Italy permanently engaged in imperial war appeared to have at least a notion of a link with reality. By the time Italy was dragged, reluctantly, into the war in June, 1940, the fascist state was already falling apart.

Utterly incompetent as a military commander, he quickly

earned Hitler's contempt through inept strategies and, on occasion, by boasting of troop reserves which did not exist. Two years after he took Italy into the conflict, illness and defeat had reduced him to a pitiful state, absent from meetings so frequently that the government of the country came to a standstill. Yet it was not until July, 1944, a few days after the first bombs had fallen on Rome, that he was deposed.

News of his arrest raced through Rome and Mack Smith records its effect. "Of the four million members of the party and an even larger number in the party's youth organizations, not one tried to organize any serious resistance, despite their solemn oath to defend the *Duce* and the party's pronouncement that they were all prepared to die for him."

The bout of insanity had ended. Not even Mussolini's release from captivity by Skorzeny's glider troops and his installation as Hitler's puppet could revive it. This timely and engrossing book not only sheds light on a half-forgotten dictator, but also illustrates that fascism, as much as Mussolini, was a product of its time. Given the glib usage of the term today, it is a welcome reminder.

David Hewson

Nice one from a pioneer wordsmith

Catch phrases are a territory bounded on the north by proverbs, on the south by famous quotations, on the east by cliché, and on the west by vogue slang. "Nice one, Cyr!" is a recent catch phrase that is carefully derived from its footballing, or less probably, from baking or showbiz origin in this dictionary. "Sick as a parrot" and "Over the moon", two catch phrases recently favoured by footballers being interviewed, are not included.

These are difficult and uncharted lands. The best, and for much of the territory the only, cartographer of them is Eric Partridge. In his last big book about the English language, paperbacked this month,

It has the Partridge flaws. He was an amateur, one-man-band wordsmith. The entries are eclectic, and much of the evidence is from his army of correspondents and other enthusiastic hearers. There is inadequate documentation and precision to satisfy professional lexicographers. And yet, nobody else is assembling such a mass of information about the shady and pop sides of the language.

Where else would you find such a learned and witty essay on the origins of "some of my best friends are Jews"? Who but Partridge would find a sixteenth-century instance of "I'll have your guts for garters"? I dare say it was a serious threat in those days. It still sounded pretty serious when uttered by RSM Paterson of the Black Watch, where we were scarier garters.

I thought that a fault in the innovative *Fontana Dictionary of Modern Thought* published in

A Dictionary of Catch Phrases by Eric Partridge (Routledge & Kegan Paul, £5.95)
The Fontana Biographical Companion to Modern Thought edited by Alan Bullock and R. B. Woodings (Fontana, £8.95)

1977 was that it squeezed in the names of the thinkers as well as their thoughts. Columns and columns were wasted with fairly obscure entries such as: "Hayek, Friedrich August von (Austrian-British economist, b. 1889), see under RIGHT, TIE."

This biographical companion to the *Dictionary* gives biographies of some 2,000 figures who have, through their ideas,

their words, their insights, or their actions, influenced the formation and development of modern thought and consciousness. It casts its net admirably wide. Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan are included as great thinkers of the twentieth century, but not Harold Wilson or Roy Jenkins, sorry, chaps.

Who was Alfred Kroeber? Who is Krzysztof Penderecki? What was Fritz Zwicky's contribution to the twentieth century? If you need to know the answers to such questions, with little bibliographies for further reading, here is a useful new paperback for you.

Philip Howard

Better murder than meanness in the family

Elders and Betters by Ivy Compton Burnett (Allison and Busby, £2.95)
More Women than Men by Ivy Compton Burnett (Allison and Busby, £2.95)
Ivy When Young by Hilary Spurling (Allison and Busby, £3.95)

she is dangerously ill with inflammation of the lungs. She then both consoles and reproaches herself with the thought: "Better murder than meanness. What are called the little things are the gravest human wrongs. No recognized wrong, even though it were injury or death, takes its place beside them in the scale of human harm." These small acts of meanness provide the plot.

In *Elders and Betters* an extensive family network is set up to explore the varieties of rivalry which may operate both between and within close-knit families. In almost ritualistic

(and witty) dialogue brothers and sisters joust with each other, as do parents and children, servants and employers.

During these various power struggles people are allowed to behave very badly without having to suffer for it. This novelist is not interested in poetic justice. She is too meticulous an observer to allow the reader the luxury of seeing good made to triumph. She is interested in temptation and the ways people who have succumbed to it behave to the people they have harmed.

As Ivy Compton Burnett's novels are mainly studies of family life, it is natural to expect that a study of her own upbringing will help in some way to illuminate her writing. Hilary Spurling gives a very detailed account of her early life, but, in spite of this, and in spite

of the huge amount of factual detail Miss Spurling has collected, Ivy Compton Burnett's personality and relationships with her family still remain too elusive to add much to the novels.

But her life is interesting in itself. Of her 12 brothers and sisters, one died young of pneumonia, another was killed in the first war, three committed suicide and, like herself, none of her remaining sisters ever married.

Apart from her time at Royal Holloway College (very well described) she devoted her energies to family life, first as the eldest daughter and then, when her mother died, as head of the family during its most traumatic period. No wonder she understood family dynamics.

Anne Barnes

Under the mask of a Hollywood legend

The Man you Loved to Hate by Richard Koszarski (OUP, £7.95)

The most intriguing role he ever wrote, played or directed was his own. He entered the United States in 1909 as Erich Oswald Hans Carl Maria von Stroheim, aged 24, the son of a German baroness and Austrian count, a graduate of the Imperial Military Academy at Wienerneustadt, who rode into battle over Bosnia Herzegovina — and rode out in an ambulance with 16 inches of lead in his 5½ft frame.

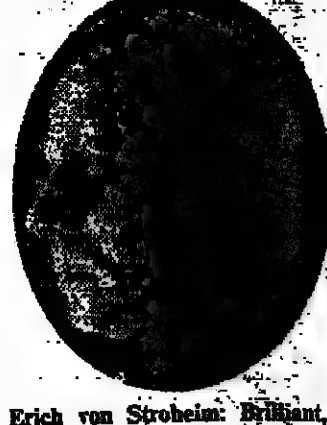
But the Hans, the Carl, the Maria, the count, the baroness and the covered "von", not to mention the 16 inches of lead, were embellishments — part of an elaborate fiction to identify him from the other poor emigrés who flooded into the New World before the First World War. His real name was Erich Oswald Stroheim, the son of a Jewish Viennese hatter who may or may not have fled the Old World after being rescued from debt by a rich uncle on condition that he went.

This detached, literate biography tells how the imaginative young man used people and his own talent to emerge from a succession of odd jobs to become a writer, actor, director and some of those so-called legendary figures of early Hollywood. "The most brilliant, obsessive, secretive, far-sighted and self-destructive" of them all is how the blurb describes him — justifiably.

Von Stroheim made films in those pioneering silent days, in the conviction that the cinema was an art form. He worked without formulas, without any particular technique, shaping silent movies like a poet.

That is what the book says anyway. Some of the examples can make this sound high-faluting. *Queen Kelly*, produced in 1928-29, which ran into trouble with the censors, told of Kitty Kelly (Gloria Swanson), a convent girl who after being abducted by a lustful Kurilian prince and being whipped from his palace by his resentful wife, ends up running a brothel in Dar es Salaam.

Von Stroheim was a perfect



Erich von Stroheim: Brilliant, far-sighted and self-destructive

tionist, who did all the things Hollywood directors are supposed to. When an actress in *Queen Kelly* objected to being filmed bare-breasted, he gave her a white cat to cuddle, and when the cat got fed up and scratched her, he got the cat white mittens.

He has been compared with Chaplin, without Chaplin's business acumen. Few have been compared with von Stroheim. He died in 1957, paralysed by cancer, having lived long enough to play Rommel in Billy Wilder's wartime *Five Graves to Cairo*. "You've been 10 years ahead of your time," Wilder told him when they met. "Twenty," snapped "Mr Von" (as they called him) in reply.

Henry Stanhope



Convent girl Gloria Swanson, star of *Queen Kelly*

Cuckoos, cricket and chamber pots

The First Cuckoo: Letters to The Times since 1900 chosen by Kenneth Gregory (Unwin Paperbacks/Times Books, £2.95)
Amazing Times Amusing and Amazing Articles from The Times chosen by Stephen Winkworth (Unwin Paperbacks, £2.95)

place. As Mr Winkworth observes, when *The Times* reports that the Bishop of Bath has no soap, or a woman of 101 enjoys sliding down banisters, it is all the more comic because the source is authoritative.

Much of human life is here: the couple who made their home in a dog kennel, the woman who lived in a tree, the sailor who hid his girlfriend in his kitchen to try to avoid paying her train fare and the two old men who fought, and survived, a duel. They stood 5ft apart, 12 bullets flew, but as one was almost blind and the other had

to support himself with a stick, no damage was done.

Back to cuckoo. Kenneth Gregory has revised *The First Cuckoo*, a selection of witty, amusing and memorable letters to *The Times* since 1900 by adding a further batch from 1975 to 1980, which prove that later correspondents lack none of the fury and outrage, eccentricity and wit of their predecessors.

Their subjects include toads wrongly accused of attacking goldfish, knitting needles that no longer make a comfortable clicking sound, and the disappearance of chamber pots in guest bedrooms.

A fascinating anthology, with cricket as a recurrent theme. The game has prompted more letters to *The Times* than all other sports and pastimes combined.

Penny Symon

PREVIEW Theatre

Grace in the grotesque, passion in the perverse

When Bob Fosse's *Dancin'* opened on Broadway, the New York critics were doubtful whether dancing could carry a whole show, with no plot, no characters, and no original music. The answer, four years and a Tony award later, was yes. The show opens on Monday at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, with an American cast to test the British response to dancing fever.

"An explosion of energy on stage is the only way I can describe it," said the show's producer, Tom Arnold. "It is entirely plotless and the company are all equal and may play different parts if needed. With two hours and six minutes of occasional accidents. We have a massage therapist standing by full time because it is physically so demanding."

Fosse's definitive statement on the stage musical

The 18 dancers — 14 on stage and four in reserve — are drawn largely from the New York and touring productions. The show has been tightened up since Broadway and two less successful numbers cut.

Fosse, who choreographed *Patience*, *Guinevere*, as well as numerous other Broadway musicals over the years (including *Damn Yankees*, *Sweet Charity*, and *Chicago*), regards *Dancin'* as his definitive statement on the stage musical. In the past few years he has concentrated more on films and has directed, among others, *Cabaret* and *All That Jazz*.

Dancin' evolved in a workshop studio in New York, where Fosse and his dancers worked on experimental sketches. Gradually they built up material for a show. He chose music and lyrics from diverse composers — Jerry Lieber and Mike Stoller, Erly Satie, Cat Stevens, Louis Prima and Neil Diamond.

The show looks back to the influences on the musical. There is a recreation of Beany

Goodman and his band in the Prima number "Sing, Sing, Sing", and there are costume switches from one aspect of dance to another. The missing "a" in the title is significant — it is the American way of describing show dancing, as opposed to ballet or modern dance.

Arnold regards the centrepiece as "Dancin' Man", a tribute by Fosse to Fred Astaire, danced by the entire company dressed as Fred Astaire, in white with candy-striped neckties worn as belts. Tapping, soft-shoeing, thigh-slapping and hip-tipping, everyone becomes Fred Astaire, the man acknowledged as the most important influence on American show dancing.

Fosse's own original, angular style was described by Jack Kroll of *Newsweek* as a "raffish personal body lingo that goes way back to the Chicago burlesque houses where Fosse danced as a kid. It's essentially a comic style: Fosse finds grace in the grotesque and passion in the perverse, as he loves dislocated hips, whipping head rolls, a punch instead of a port de bras. Where ballet etches, Fosse cartoons..."

The London production is being re-staged by Gail Benedict, a Fosse pupil and one of the original dancers in the Broadway show. As soon as it opens here, the search will be on to find a British cast to take over in six months' time.

"It will take a full six months to find new dancers," said Mark Krane, the show's American production manager. "Although there are plenty of well qualified dancers, they will need training in the Fosse style. But with the new emphasis on dance in London, it seems this is the perfect time to launch the show."

Clare Colvin

Dancin' is previewing at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, London WC2 (S36 8108) tonight at 8pm and 8.30pm. It opens on Mon at 7pm. Then Mon-Thurs 8pm, Fri and Sat at 8pm and 8.30pm.



Springing into action: The versatile company of *Dancin'* in a sequence called Fourteen Feet, to music by Cat Stevens

OLENQUARY GLEN ROSS Costelloe (S28 2252)
Today at 2.30pm and 7.30pm, Mon at 7.30pm. In repertory with *Master Harold* by Athol Fugard (preview Fri at 7.30pm)

David Marnet's menacing account of the shark-swat-sprat world of US real-estate salesman has a resonance that spreads wide: a cast including Jack Shepherd and Tony Haygarth in top form do it justice.

HAPPY FAMILY Duke of York's (S35 5122)
Ends Nov 25, Mon-Thurs at 8pm, Fri and Sat at 8.45pm and 8.30pm. Giles Cooper's clever, disturbing 1960s comedy about three grown-up siblings imprisoned in childhood ritual is still theatrically gripping and full of psychological and political nuance. Excellent direction by Maria Aitken of an impressive cast led by Ian Ogilvy and Angela Thorne.

THE HARD SHOULDER Aldwych (S38 5404)
Mon-Fri at 8pm, Sat at 8.30pm and 8.45pm; matinees Wed at 2.30pm and 8.30pm. Enjoyable bitter comedy starring Stephen Moore as a fledgling property tycoon unexpectedly foisted by motown plans. Witty and thoughtful, it combines well observed social satire with a sinister political parable.

HAY FEVER Queen's (734 1168)
Mon-Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 5pm and 8.15pm; matinees Wed at 3pm. Noel Coward's 1920s comedy about a theatrical family and their

mixed bag of persecuted house guests remains hilarious after any number of revivals, and Penelope Keith takes to the leading lady's part as though to the bed manners born.

LEAR The Pit (S28 8795/538 8891)
Today, Wed and Thurs at 7.30pm. In repertory with *Mollère* by Michail Bulgakov (Mon and Tues at 7.30pm), and *Taruffe* by Mollère (Fri at 7.30pm). Probably his greatest play, Edward Bond's grim prophetic fantasy on themes from *King Lear* is even more compelling in this close-quarters studio setting. Squashy viewers need a torture warning: otherwise Bob Fosse and the cast promise a provocative, very rewarding experience.

LUCKY BAG Fortune (S35 2238)
Mon-Fri at 8pm, Sat at 8.30pm and 8.45pm; matinees Thurs at 3pm. Packed with enchanting songs and boasting a witty performance by

Denis Lawson of scrobetic brilliance, Vivian Ellis's 1952 musical recasts *Cinderella* in the anyone-for-terms age. Modest staging (originally at the King's Head); but the production's speed and sparkle make it an intoxicating evening.

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING Barbican (S28 8795/538 8891)
Today at 2pm and 7.30pm, Wed at 7.30pm, Thurs at 2pm and 7.30pm. In repertory with *The Tempest* (Mon and Tues at 1.30pm), and *Cyrano de Bergerac* by Edmond Rostand (Fri at 7.30pm). Terry Hands's production is a sheer delight and the outstanding success of the Royal Shakespeare company's current Barbican season. Derek Jacobi and Sinead Cusack make a Benelock and Beatrice of exceptional wit and charm.

PACK OF LIES Lyric (S37 5588)
Mon-Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 8pm and 8.15pm, matinee Wed at 3pm. Hugh Whitmore's powerful study of a decent couple whose quiet suburban life is destroyed by a Kroger-style spy case. Judi Dench and Michael Williams fit impressively tragic performances in the most humdrum surroundings.

THE RELAPSE Lyric, Hammersmith (74 2311)
Ends Nov 25, Mon-Sat at 7.45pm; matinees Thurs at 2.30pm and Sat at 4pm. Sir John Vanbrugh's classic comedy boasts the greatest of all

Restoration pop parts. In William Gombel's production, Poppington is played with relish, style and an astounding vocal repertoire by the inimitable Simon Callow. A rather uneven cast also includes Nicky Katt and Oliver Cotton.

WIZARD OF OZ Criticism (S30 3216)
Mon-Fri at 8.30pm, Sat at 5.30pm and 8.30pm. Black South Africa's cry from the heart. Virtuosos in multiple part doubling and storytelling on a bare stage. Percy Mwa and Mbongeni Ngema enact the often funny, finally heartbreaking consequences of Christ's choice of both the Johannesburg for his second coming: adoption as white propaganda figure, arrest as a Communist agitator, and resurrection on the third day with Albert Luthuli and Steve Biko.

YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU Lyttelton (S28 2252)
Mon-Fri at 7.45pm; matinee Wed 3pm. In repertory with *Inner Voices* by Eduardo de Filippo (Final performances today at 3pm and 7.45pm). Once again the National strikes gold in America, this time with Kaufman and Hart's endearing 1936 comedy about a family of happy eccentrics. Jimmy Jewel as the genial, drop-out grandpa, Gertrude McFadden as the dotty authoress mother, Gena Brown as alcoholic actress and Margaret Courtney as a Russian grandee turned waitress combine in a gloriously funny, subversive hymn to indecendence.

Out of Town

COVENTRY: Belgrade (S283 20205). *Saint Joan* by George Bernard Shaw. Opens Thurs at 7.30pm. Fri and Sat at 8pm; matinees Nov 23 and Nov 26 at 2.30pm.

CRYSTON: Ashcroft (S88 8291). *Edgington Rita* by Willy Russell. Mon-Fri at 7.45pm, Sat at 8.15pm and 8.15pm; matinee Wed at 2.30pm.

EDINBURGH: Royal Lyceum (031 229 9697). *White Rough* by Bill Bryden. Wed at 8pm, Thurs-Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 8pm; matinee Nov 26 at 4pm. In repertory with *Beyond the Law* by James Macdonald. Mon and Nov 21, then Nov 28-Dec 3 at 8pm.

NOTTINGHAM: Playhouse (0602 419419). *Repertory season*. The Matchmaker by Thornton Wilder. Wed at 7.15pm. Comedy which formed the basis for the musical *Hello Dolly*. With Carol Tait, John Turner.

Long Day's Journey Into Night by Eugene O'Neill. Skidmore Room. Thurs at 7.15pm. Carol Tait, John Turner, Eric Allan, George Winter and the Tyrone parents and sons in O'Neill's autobiographical masterpiece. *Coriolanus*. Thurs at 7.15pm, Fri at 10.30pm (schools performance). Gregory Floy, Michael Kirin, Philip Lowrie and Richard Mayle in Shakespeare's most "political" play.

Candida by George Bernard Shaw. Today, Mon and Fri at 7.15pm. Linda Gardner, Philip Lawrie, Gregory Doran, in Shaw's comedy. *Mother Courage and Her Children* by Bertolt Brecht. Thurs at 7.15pm. Miriam Karlin leads in what is perhaps Brecht's greatest play, set in the Thirty Years War.

World premiere production of this stage adaptation of the story of four children searching wartime Europe for their parents. Directed by Steve Addison.

SALISBURY: Playhouse (0722 20333). *The School for Scandal* by Richard Brinsley Sheridan. Last performances today at 8pm and 8.15pm.

THANKS TO BEN TRAVERS. Opens Thurs at 8pm. Until Dec 10, Tues, Wed and Fri at 7.15pm, Thurs at 8pm, Sat at 8pm and 8.15pm. Also Dec 5 at 7.15pm.

STRAFORD: Royal Shakespeare (0793 9697). *William Rough* by Bill Bryden. Wed at 8pm, Thurs-Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 8pm; matinee Nov 26 at 4pm. In repertory with *Beyond the Law* by James Macdonald. Mon and Nov 21, then Nov 28-Dec 3 at 8pm.

STRATFORD: Other Place (0793 295623). *The Time of Your Life* by William Saroyan. Mon at 7.30pm. In repertory with *A New Way to Pay Old Debts* by Franz Messinger (Tues and Wed at 7.30pm) and *Volpone* by Ben Jonson (Fri at 7.30pm).

WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA: Ocean Studio, Palace Theatre (0702 42554). *Repertory season*. Until Nov 26, Tues-Sat at 8pm. Well received on its premiere in London earlier this year, the play may have local origins, in that its author attended a preparatory school here, 1891-1906, and the story is a recollection of such a school in 1956. Directed by Christopher Durham.

Theatre: Irving Wardle and Anthony Masters

THE WEEK AHEAD

Today

LOAD MAYOR'S SHOW: Dame Mary Donalson, the first woman Lord Mayor, leads the parade through the City of London with 53 decorated floats and 30 marching bands on her chosen theme of "It is people that matter". The procession leaves Guildhall at 11am and goes along Cheapside, Ludgate Hill and Fleet Street to the Royal Courts of Justice. At 1.15pm it returns along Victoria Embankment and Queen Victoria Street to Mansion House, arriving about 1.40pm. Television coverage on BBC1 from 11.25am. Dame Mary starts a 30-minute fireworks display at 5pm on barges moored on the Thames between Blackfriars and Waterloo bridges.

CRAFT SKILLS GALORE: Demonstrations of skills include lace, cane, basketware and jewelry, with plenty for sale, today and tomorrow at the Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (928 3002), 11am-10.30pm. Another fair shows how craftsmen engrave glass, spin, carve and practise calligraphy, with examples for sale.

BBC Television coverage of sport and other outside broadcasts may be affected by industrial action

today and tomorrow at Kensington Town Hall, London W8 (937 5484), 10am-7pm.

INTERNATIONAL RUGBY UNION: Scotland, weakened by injuries, take on the New Zealand All Blacks at Murrayfield, Edinburgh, hoping to end a dismal sequence of 11 defeats and one draw in the last 12 matches between the two countries. The match is being covered live in Grandstand, BBC1, from 2.25pm, and there will be highlights on Rugby Special, BBC2, 7.35-8.30pm. Also today Wales make history by playing their first full international against Romania in Bucharest.

IN MEMORIAM: The Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance in the Royal Albert Hall, London, attended by the Queen Mother and the Prince and Princess of Wales, is the traditional prelude to Remembrance Sunday (edited version BBC1, 9-10.30pm). Tomorrow the Prince of Wales lays a wreath of poppies at the Cenotaph in Whitehall in a ceremony described by Tom Fleming (BBC1, 10.30-11.35am); and at the Shaw Theatre, Euston Road N1, there is *Armistice*, a programme of words and music inspired by the horror of war and featuring Murray Melvin and Penelope Fildes (7.30pm).

THE 1,000 DAYS OF JOHN F. KENNEDY: The presidency of JFK, assassinated in Dallas 20 years ago this month, is assessed in two radio programmes on successive Saturdays. Tonight's theme is foreign affairs and the subjects will include the Bay of Pigs invasion, the American involvement in South East Asia from Laos to Vietnam and the Cuban missile crisis. Among the contributors are Dean Rusk, McGeorge Bundy and J. K. Galbraith and the programme is presented by Edmund Lyons of York University. Radio 4, 10.15-11pm, repeated Fri 11am. The second programme will deal with economic policy, race relations and other domestic issues.

Tomorrow

SOMETHING FOR THE LADIES: An attempt, in the words of the producer Peter Barber, to "give women a rare opportunity to indulge in sexism". The male sex appears in a variety of titillating situations from body-building exhibitions to mud-wrestling and striptease. BBC2, 9.30-10.10pm. The programme is designed as an antidote to the 1983 Miss World Contest, which is being screened on the ITV network on Thurs, 8.30-10pm.

Monday

QLC PAINTING COMPETITION: Artists living, working or studying in Greater London have an opportunity to share in almost £12,000 worth of prizes, and to have their paintings exhibited. The theme is *The Spirit of London*; paintings should be between 11 x 7 1/2 in and 48 x 48 in; the permitted media are oil, water colour, tempera, pastel and printing; three works may be submitted (entry fee £4 each) and artists must be over 16 years old on June 1, 1983. Entries should be delivered to the Royal Festival Hall today or tomorrow, between 9am and 8pm, where entry forms are available. Further details on 685 1706.

BEAUJOLAIS RELEASED: This year's Beaujolais Nouveau left France at midnight, so there will be plenty here in time for lunch today.

NOT MUCH TO ASK: Graeme Company, six actors with disabilities, present the first play to be commissioned by the Riverside.

London lady: The Lord Mayor, Dame Mary Donalson (Today)



The last cuppa: Ralph Steadman with the version of Leonardo's Last Supper which he painted on his bedroom wall and which appears in his idiosyncratic 'autobiography' of the artist, *Leonardo* (Jonathan Cape, £9.95). An accompanying exhibition is at the Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (928 3002), from Monday

POPPY: Royal Shakespeare Company's award-winning 1982 musical, by Peter Nichols, with music by Monty Norman, now with a mainly new cast. Alfred Marks, Geoffrey Hutchings, Victoria Ellis, David Firth, Nicholas McAuliffe and Ken Wynne lead, with choreography by Onna White. Adelphi (836 7611). Previews from today. Mon-Sat at 7.30pm, Nov 21 at 7.30pm; matinees Thurs and Sat at 3pm. Opens Nov 22 at 7pm.

DANCIN': New Bob Fosse musical, see page 6.

REITH: Tom Fleming, who has succeeded Richard Dimbleby as the hushed and reverential describer of royal occasions, returns to his original calling as an actor to portray Sir John Heath, founder and first director-general of the BBC, in a two-part drama by Roger Miler. Supporting cast includes Peter Barkworth as Baldwin and Robert Lamb as Churchill, reliving the traumas of the General Strike; also Dinah Stabb, Joyce Carey and James Groux. Part one is this evening, BBC1 9.25-10.45pm, and part two tomorrow from 9.25 to 10.55pm.

Tuesday

SUPERS ENGLISH WATERCOLOURS: A superb, marvellous watercolour and bookcolour view by Turner of "The valley of the Washburn", made for his close friend and patron Walter Fawkes around 1815, is the star of today's sale. It is one of a famous group of views around Fawkes's home, Farnley Hall in Yorkshire. The sale contains several other Turners, a fine Shottor Boys, several Girtins, a fascinating Blake drawing and a striking group of bird drawings by an eighteenth century vicar. It is the best English watercolour sale of the autumn. Christie's, King Street, London SW1 (839 9060) 10.30am.

REG BUTLER (1913-1981): Memorial exhibition: the first survey of the sculptor's career includes more than 100 sculptures and drawings. After a late start, his work developed considerably, from stripped, black iron figures of the late 1940s to fully rounded bronze female nudes, with real hair, completed in the 1970s and now

an adaptation, by Patsy Rodenburg, of Charlotte Brontë's novel, *Villette*. Caroline Noh directs. Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, Hamersmith, London W6 (748 3354). Preview today at 8pm. Opens Wed at 7pm. Until Nov 20, Thurs - Sun at 8pm.

NICARAGUA: A personal report by John Piger on the little Central American republic which is trying to break the pattern of poverty, disease and dependence on the United States. The programme includes remarkable film, not previously seen on television, of United States marines in action in Nicaragua in the 1920s; and describes the strafing of the town of Ocoatl in 1927 in what is thought to be the first example of concentrated aerial bombardment. All ITV regions, 10.30-11.30pm.

Wednesday

CHRISTMAS STAMPS: The doves of peace and goodwill is the common motif on this year's set, designed by Tony Meuwissen, an illustrator from Stroud, Gloucestershire. The values are 12½p, 16p, 20½p, 28p and 31p. A Christmas aerogramme, depicting flowers against a winter background, also goes on sale today, price 30p.

ISLAMIC ART AND DESIGN, 1500-1700: An exhibition of the great achievements of Islamic art produced under the Ottomans in Turkey, the Safavids and the Mughals in India. All three empires shared a common taste for hardstones, textiles, pottery, calligraphy and fine arms. Pieces on show are selected from the rich collections of the British Museum and Library, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Chester Beatty Library and from private collections. Special Exhibitions Gallery, British Museum, London WC1 (638 1555). Until Feb 19, Mon-Sat 10-5pm; Sun 2.30-6pm.

THOSE GLORY GLORY DAYS: The fourth of David Puttnam's film dramas under the title, *First Love*, this is a semi-biographical piece by Julie Welch, football correspondent of *The Observer*, about a teenage girl's passion for soccer and in particular the legendary Danny Blanchflower (who makes a brief

appearance as himself). Zoe Nathenson plays the star-struck youngster, with Julie McKenzie and Peter Tully as her parents. Channel 4, 9.30-11.40pm.

HOWZAT W. G. GRACE: opens the batting in a sale of cricketiana today. The Parian ware figure of the most celebrated of cricketers is estimated at £200-£300. Also on offer are a large number of Wisden's *Cricketers' Almanacs*, sporting cartoons and paintings, signed footballs and a large section of golfing memorabilia - formerly the property of J. H. Taylor. Phillips, Blenheim Street, London W1 (629 8602) at noon.

ENGLAND ON THE BRINK: Two matches today could decide whether England reach the finals of the European Football Championship in France next year. This afternoon Greece play Denmark and a Greek win or a draw will leave England needing only to beat Luxembourg to qualify. In a quiet corner of the stadium, the Greek match from 2pm and the England game live from 6.15pm. Also today Wales are away to Bulgaria and Northern Ireland to West Germany.

Thursday

LONDON FILM FESTIVAL: Among the films being shown in 125 programmes are two Lillian Gish slants and the "missing" Hitchcocks. See page 7.

MANUSCRIPT DISCOVERIES: Two important musical discoveries, a lost fragment by Mozart and three pages of previously unknown corrections by Beethoven to his great Emperor Piano Concerto No 5 are included in today's sale. There is also a letter from the Austrian Empress Maria Theresa. Sotheby's, Bloomsbury Place, New Bond Street, London W1 (01 483 8080) at 10.30am and 2.30pm.

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appearance as himself). Zoe Nathenson plays the star-struck youngster, with Julie McKenzie and Peter Tully as her parents. Channel 4, 9.30-11.40pm.

Friday

CUJO: When a St Bernard dog catches rabies, the proprietors of things must be expected, and Lewis Teague's film of the novel by Stephen King does not fail to deliver them. With Dee Wallace (the mother in *E.T.*), Danny Pintauro, Daniel Hugh-Kelly, the dog is uncensored. Cert 16. Leicester Square Theatre (830 5252).

THE LONELY LADY: Pia Zadora, putting star of the awful *Butterfly*, valiantly contemplates her screen career with this hectic drama about an aspiring writer, from a novel by Harold Robbins. With Lloyd Bochner, Bibi Besch, directed by Peter Sarsy, once associated with Hammer horrors. Cert 18. ABC Bayswater (229 4149); ABC Edgware Road (723 5901); ABC Fulham Road (370 2636); ABC Shaftesbury Avenue (386 5861); Studio Oxford Circus (437 3300); and on selected London releases.

FINALLY, SUNDAY: Francois Truffaut's latest homage to the movie thriller, shot in black and white, with Fanny Ardant as an estate agent's secretary endeavouring to clear her boss's name of murder. Based on the novel *The Long Saturday Night* by Christine Williams. With Jean-Louis Trintignant. Cert PG. Chelsea Cinema (351 3742).

CONSTABLE SKETCH: A stunning little oil sketch by John Constable comes under the hammer today after spending a year with the Tate Gallery. The gallery hoped to buy it but was not apparently prepared to match Christie's valuation. Called "Stoke by Nayland" and dated 1816, it is a ravishing vista closely related to "The Cornfield" in the National Gallery. The sale also includes a good Gainsborough landscape and other high quality English pictures. Christie's, King Street, London SW1 (839 9060) at 11am.

BYRONIC CABINET: An early George III mahogany secretary cabinet, which was left by Lady Holderness to the Hon Augustus

Leigh, Byron's half-sister, is for sale today. It is a poetic piece with a top in elegant Chinese fretwork, a set of drawers and square moulded legs carved with chains of flowers. It is included in Sotheby's best English furniture sale of the autumn. Sotheby's, Bond Street, London W1 (493 8080) at 10.30am.

MASTER HAROLD: Athol Fugard's most recent play, as seen in New York. The Market Theatre, Johannesburg company, directed by Athol Fugard, assisted by Marnie Marini. Cottesloe (828 2252). Previews today, Nov 19, 21-23 at 7.30pm. Opens Nov 24 at 7pm. In repertory.

PICTURE OF HEALTH: Ambitious new Channel 4 series of eight 45-minute documentaries which try to challenge the popular identification of health with medicine. The programmes argue that health is too important to be left to doctors and other experts, that most of the issues can be understood by ordinary people and that questions concerning the prevention of ill-health need to be brought into the wider political arena. The first of the series, *A Bit of Class*, argues that the National Health Service has failed to eliminate class differences in health and illness. Channel 4, 10.30-11.30pm.

Week following

Nov 18: Lombard RAC Rally starts. Bath: British Youth Band Championships. Wembley Arena.

Lonely lady: Pia Zadora, star of a hectic drama (Friday)

At Home

When snap decisions are costly

If hints hang heavily in the household atmosphere about how nice it would be to have pictures this Christmas, or the need to replace that old Box Brownie makes the urge to enter the other side of the camera shop window irresistible, beware the jungle that awaits. Manufacturers' efforts to produce a sophisticated camera which is all things to all people and the onslaught of hi-tech electronics have made it difficult for the customer to distinguish between useful advances and market hype.

It is imperative that the photographer has a clear idea of what he requires of the camera. The first decision to make is how serious a pastime photography will be, since generally the more versatile the camera the more expensive it is. The next considerations are ease of use and value for money.

On these criteria, cameras taking 110 type film, such as the Kodak Instamatic, or film discs, though cheap, scarcely warrant attention, as the small film size does not permit good-quality enlargements.

However, it was the ease with which 110 type cameras could be used compared with most 35mm non-reflex cameras which prompted 35mm manufacturers to create a new niche in the market. Enter the micro-electronic marvel - the 35mm autofocus compact, a pocket-sized camera, which focuses the subject automatically.

If what is wanted is a general-purpose camera for use by all the family with virtually no instruction, an autofocus compact is the obvious choice. Picture quality is excellent, and a lot has been crammed into a very small package. Built-in viewfinders advance the film automatically to enable rapid sequences of pictures to be taken - a boon at festive occasions.



Exposure, too, is automatic. The camera's microchip has been programmed to choose an optimum aperture and shutter speed for prevailing conditions.

The autofocus compact is aimed at the non-serious enthusiast, but no photographer would regret owning one, as in more serious application it is the perfect instrument for candid photos. Prices range from £70 to £100. The Chicon 35MA, Canon AF 35ML, Mamiya M, Fujica DL-100 and Nikon L35AF are all good.

The natural choice for the serious enthusiast is the 35mm single lens reflex (SLR) camera, which offers a choice of lenses to fit the situation and subject matter. The photographer Norman Parkinson tells a story of how he searched worldwide to replace his manual exposure Nikon F2 camera with identical models when they were stolen. But for most photographers electronic assistance is welcome, and with the SLRs the trend is also towards total automation.

However, the program SLRs are available with fully manual operation in addition to fully automatic programmed exposure calculation and semi-automatic aperture and shutter speed selection. This means the camera can be operated automatically for simple unfused use or manually for more adventurous, creative work.

Again on the model of the compact, Olympus and Nikon have developed electronically aided focusing for SLRs, and some makes have push-button control over backlighting. Many SLRs also take flash units specifically designed for them, known as "dedicated" flash units, which simplify flash photography.

Good program SLRs include the Canon AE1, Canon T50, Canon AE1, Pentax Super-AI, Mamiya ZE-X, Nikon FG, Minolta X-700, Konica FP-1 and Contax 137MA. These range in price from £90 to £240. It pays to shop around for your 35mm camera, as although pricing is keen, £10 variations are not uncommon. A cursory check on the current price for the popular Canon AE-1, for example, revealed a variation between £149.99 at Photomarkets, in London EC3, and £155.95 at Cecil Jacobs in Leicester and £159.90 at Inter City Cameras in Portsmouth.

Finally, there are the medium-format cameras, using 2 1/4 in by 2 1/4 in negatives. These are the best cameras for portraiture. But all but the very expensive are more cumbersome than an SLR. They are not worth consideration by the amateur photographer.

Roy Cuckow Photomarkets, Modern Camera, 4 Royal Exchange, Cornhill, London EC3 (01 626 4197). Cecil Jacobs, 61 Granby Street, Leicester (0533 544572). Inter City Cameras, 16 Arundel Street, Portsmouth (0705 822881).

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CHRISTIE'S St. JAMES'S

8 King Street London SW1

Next week's sales

15th at 10.30 am
Important English Drawings and Watercolours

15th at 10.30 am
Stamps of Great Britain

16th at 11.00 am and 2.30 pm
Important Travel and Natural History Books and Atlases

17th at 10.30 am
Fine Claret and White Bordeaux

17th at 11.00 am and 2.30 pm
Important English Furniture, Eastern Rugs and Carpets

18th at 11.00 am
Important English Pictures

SUNDAY VIEW

Christie's St. James's will be open on Sunday, 27 November from 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm for a special view of Indian and Islamic Manuscripts, Miniatures and Works of Art, Tribal Art, Rugs, Old Master Drawings, Architectural Drawings and Watercolours, Sculpture, Important Old Master Pictures and Highly Important French Furniture.

Information on these sales on 01-839 9060/930 8870

SOUTH KENSINGTON

85 Old Brompton Road London SW7

15th at 2.00 pm
Costume and Textiles, including 1950's and 60's Costumes

16th at 10.30 am
The Remaining Contents of Burfield Lodge, Old Windsor. Sold by Order of B.J. Looker, Esq.

17th at 2.00 pm
Mechanical Music

18th at 2.00 pm
Dolls

21st at 5.00 pm
Modern British and Continental Pictures

There will also be sales of Watercolours, Silver, Jewellery, Carpets and Objects of Art, Furniture, Pictures, Ceramics, Oriental Works of Art and Ceramics, Objects of Virtue and Prints.

Information on these sales on 01-581 2231/3679

GENEVA

The Hotel Richemond

12th at 6.30 pm
Fine and Rare Wines

13th at 3.00 pm and 7.00 pm
Art Nouveau and Art Deco

14th at 3.00 pm and 6.00 pm
European Porcelain

14th at 8.00 pm and 16th at 10.00 am, 2.30 pm and 8.30 pm
Gold Boxes, Objects of Vertu and Decorative Jewellery

15th at 5.00 pm
Clocks and Watches

15th at 8.00 pm and 16th at 10.00 am, 2.30 pm and 8.30 pm
Magnificent Jewels

17th at 10.30 and 3.00 pm
Russian Works of Art and Objects by Carl Fabergé

17th at 6.00 pm
European Silver

Information on these sales on 01-839 9060/930 8870

Collecting

Proud owner's bombe surprise

"My husband hates this chest of drawers", the owner said. "He calls it a Frenchified, feminine, frivolous fake. But I believe it's really rather good. It's Louis, I know, but which one?"

"Louis Armstrong, by the look of it", the valuer murmured. "A twentieth-century reproduction of a mid-eighteenth-century commode in the Louis XV style."

"Oh. Then my husband was right for once. Dismissed!" At least it's made of wood - except, of course, for the marble top and the metal mounts. I came across one recently that had a bombe carcass pressed out of hardboard, with paper-thin veneer over it. Not very nice.

"I can imagine. Last week, in a restaurant, I found myself faced with something called a bombe surprise. Felt a bit blown out myself, afterwards."

"The same word. Bombe commodes - ones with blown-out curves - were developed in France in the early eighteenth century, first in a rather heavy form with three drawers, then a little later in a lighter, two-drawer version. The best ones were, sans traverse - like this one."

"Sans what?"

"The rail between the two drawers was concealed or dispensed with..."

"Did this happen only in France? Or could anyone join in?"



Frivolous fake: Bombe-shaped commode in Louis XV style with marble top, ornate mounts and floral marquetry decoration

"It was. And very expensive. When the commode was at the height of its popularity and occupied pride of place in the salon rather than the bedroom huge sums were spent on its elaboration. If yours were genuine, it would be worth thousands today - especially if it were stamped with the name of one of the famous makers."

"But how do you know this is the real thing?"

"By looking at the way it was made, the methods and materials used. Wood dries out as it grows older and is exposed to the air. The timber in the interior of this piece suggests it was assembled no more than 50 years ago, while the veneers on the exterior lack depth of colour and are much thinner than the hand-cut veneers of the eighteenth century. As for the ornate mounts..."

"You mean the curly little bits of brass or whatever it is?"

"It should be finely tooled and gilded bronze, not this coarse, mass-produced rubbish."

"And when did all the faking start? During what you call the Louis Armstrong period?"

"Much earlier. The Louis XV style - the rococo - was revived before the middle of the nineteenth century."

"But that was - how long? - well over a hundred years ago. Surely the wood has had long enough to mature since then? How do you distinguish the originals from the old copies?"

"To be frank, it's not easy. But most of those later pieces are betrayed by fussy little details their makers couldn't resist introducing. They didn't just glide the ornate mounts - they gilded the life as well."

"Like adding a spot of French to the pin?"

Peter Philip

Out and About

Brooding horror by the bank

It was very much the late, late season for trout fly fishing. Rain drifted in the wind on the kind of cold November day when darkness creeps up soon after 3pm. In a quiet corner of the lake on the outskirts of west London, the long, red lure sank deep into the grey-green water.

Lures, usually big and bright feathery flies, often come into their own in the autumn as imitations of the fry, the infant fish on which trout will gorge. On a quick-sinking line the lure crawled and jerked like the lure on the bottom, and then began to ascend as the retrieve pulled in more and more line.

The fly was very close to the surface, and a few feet from the bank when something lunged in, swirling the water.

The attack was not the thruck and charge of a trout, one sharp buccannering swipe, but a lunge of a different kind. It seemed to come from under the fly, not from behind.

A green serpentine shape slipped away, sinking rapidly into the darkness towards a hole or weed patch close to the bank. It was a brief encounter with *Esoc lucius*, the pike.

You can sometimes see them in the summer. Other fish are always parading backwards and forwards, fleeing here or there in shoals, but the pike never seems to move. Lying at the confluence of a river and a small tributary or hidden in weeds, it is always waiting.

Occasionally you will find two or even three lying as I saw them on the Kennet in Berkshire, in a row like a green mass of logs. They must each have run to a good 10lb or more. On the Coln in Gloucestershire, a big adult trout to skinkling around a river bend, watched cautiously by several brown trout who kept their distance.

The pike is a predator who makes even the hungry trout seem benign. The ever-quotable Isak Walton found him to be the "tyrant" of fresh water, one



who if allowed to live long would become "chargeable" to his keeper because so many other fish would die to feed his appetite.

A recently published modern version of *The Compleat Angler* suggested that a 12-year-old 20lb pike would have eaten 2,500 other fish weighing a total of 380 pounds. And 20lb is not particularly large for a pike. The British angling record stands at more than 40lb and historical reports speak of pike running to 70lb or more.

There are other large freshwater fish, but none has the aura of hungry malevolence which attaches to the pike. The stories are legion. Pike are credited with swallowing ducks, geese, and other large water fowl. They are claimed to have leapt from the water to swallow sheep, foxes, and even humans.

The stories are not merely the products of simpler minds of an earlier age, impressed by the pike's power and apparent malignity. Last year, in Oxfordshire, there were reports of one in a small lake which savaged the foot of a child swimmer. The fish was later said to have been close to 40lb.

Such fish are the stuff of which pike anglers' dreams are made. The smaller, younger fish - called jacks - are not so difficult to find.

Stewart Tendler

The Private

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Gilt trusts

The Pru woos private money

The man from the Pru has designs on your investments. Already Britain's largest investing institution, with vast pension funds under its management, now the Pru wants to tempt the private investor to add his money to the pot.

To differentiate between the investment activities and the traditional insurance side of its business, the Pru is calling its new venture the Holborn Gilt Trust.

This fund has been running for two years as the Vanbrugh Gilt Unit Trust and has £35m of the Pru's in-house funds invested in it. Now private investors are being invited to step aboard.

The Pru sees it as an alternative to "roll-up" funds which were so attractive to high rate taxpayers until the Chancellor stepped in. By active dealing the Pru aims to maximize capital growth and keep the income from the securities down to around 0.8 per cent. "Bond-washing", the disposal of stock before interest is paid, keeps the income tax liability to a minimum. But capital gains tax is payable on the sale of units at 30 per cent (after the exemption allowance of £5,300).

By dealing in gilts directly, an investor is exempt from capital gains tax if he holds them for at least a year and a day. But he does have to pay dealing charges. For gilts with less than

10 years to run, Phillips & Drew, for example, charge 0.8 per cent on the first £2,500 and 0.125 per cent on the next £15,500. Their minimum purchase is £2,500.

Active dealing to minimize income from gilts could be expensive, as well as time consuming. The Holborn fund with a minimum of £1,000 charges 3 per cent initially although there is a special introductory offer of 2 per cent until December 9, and an annual management charge of 0.75 per cent. The funds are not subject to capital gains tax as they deal, but of course the investor has to pay CGT when he leaves the fund.

The Pru is confident of the Inland Revenue's tacit approval of its scheme, but an individual always has to look over his shoulder when embarking on a "bond-washing" exercise because there is risk that the Inland Revenue will make income tax claims.

Although there are some arguments for not rushing out of roll-up funds, the institutions are sure that there will be a flood of high-rate taxpayers looking for a new home for their money. Many more of these low income roll-up style investments should be on offer in the next few months. It might be worth waiting for a while to see how the competition holds up.

Vivien Goldsmith

Life assurance

MP takes up interest issue

The payment of interest on life assurance policies in between the time they become a claim and the day on which the money is handed over has become a burning issue.

Following our article which highlighted this inequity, questions have been tabled in the House of Commons, by Mr Tony Marlow, MP for Northampton, North. He has asked if the Chancellor of the Exchequer would introduce legislation to require interest to be payable on life insurance policies from the date on which they fall due until such time as they are paid.

Mr Percy Richer, a solicitor, points out that the people who suffer because of the insurance companies' mean-mindedness are the very people who can least afford to lose out - widows and orphans.

Last week the Secretary general of the Life Offices Association, Mr Michael Oprey, defended the life offices and said that most of them did, in fact, pay interest. But Mr Richer is not satisfied and has been doing some research. His findings are in the table below.

Mr Richer says that the issue is not whether individual companies pay interest as a matter of course. No insurance company recognises an unqualified liability to pay interest - a payment is *ex gratia* an entirely at the company's discretion.

With the notable exception of Norwich Union, Legal & General, Sun Life and Standard Life, the insurers in the table either pay no interest on claims or pay interest only after a waiting period of one or two months.

With the exception of Standard Life which pays interest without deduction of tax, the others all subtract tax at 30 per cent. Elderly beneficiaries who could well be non-taxpayers might not realise that the payment has had tax deducted at source or that this could be reclaimed.

A lot of money is at stake. Last year, death claims totalled £772m. Assuming that the average delay before interest

starts to become payable is one month and that interest could be earned at 10 per cent, the loss to policyholders is £6.4m.

The Life Offices Association, which represents the insurance companies, refuses to concede that there is any injustice in this situation.

"Payment is geared to the production of title. It is not the claimants' money until title has been proved. I don't see that there is any inequity provided the delay is normal. The payment of interest from day one would be a solicitors' charter for doing nothing. We allow for the fact that there will be a delay of six to eight weeks when calculating the premium", says Mr Oprey.

But why can't the insurance companies acknowledge that interest is due and make a payment as a matter of course? "Because that is the way policies are worded", was Mr Oprey's reply.

Mr Richer says that building societies and National Savings pay interest up to the time money is withdrawn - however long it takes to obtain probate.

"I am now of the opinion that there is a legal issue involved and am studying with Chancery counsel the feasibility of bringing a test case", says Mr Richer.

Interest Paid by Insurance Companies on Claims

	Interest less 30% tax unless otherwise stated
Co-operative	None
Britannic	None
United Friendly	None
Liverpool Victoria	None
Royal Liver	None
Royal London	None
London & Manchester	None
Wesleyan & General	None
Prudential	10%
Sun Life of Canada	12%
Commercial Union	10%
Manufacturers Life	10%
G.A.E.	5 1/2%
Eagle Star	9%
Hambro Life	5 1/2%
Abbey Life	5 1/2%
Clerical	10%
Ecclesiastical	9%
Friends Provident	5 1/2%
Scottish Widows	7 1/2%
Canada Life	8 1/2%
Norwich Union	5 1/2%
Legal & General	None for first month, then:
Sun Life Society	From notification of death
Standard Life	Ex-gratia variable 9%
	From notification of death
	9% no tax deducted

Lorna Bourke

Divorce

Putting a price on an ex-husband's life

Continental Life, the insurance group, has come up with a policy which every divorced woman should have - life cover on her former husband. Because if he dies, an ex-wife is not automatically entitled to anything from his life policy and if there is a new wife she will be the beneficiary.

One of the big difficulties in taking out life cover on a former husband is that he may feel so badly about the marriage break-up that he refuses to co-operate or agree to allow the insurer to check with his doctor. This used to mean that the ex-wife was unable to protect herself; she just had to hope he would continue making the maintenance payments and live long enough to see the children through school.

Not any longer. Continental Life's policy costs a bit more than usual but you can insure your ex-husband's life without him ever knowing. He does not have to have a medical or fill in any details about his health. All you have to do is sign a simple declaration that to your knowledge your husband is in good health, pay the premium, and you have instant life cover.

The policy is available to

women within one year of obtaining their divorce nisi. The wife must have been granted a maintenance order by the court - however small - in favour of herself or the children.

Cover is for a fixed term - minimum five years, maximum, ceasing when the former husband reaches 65. Just two levels of protection are available - £25,000 or £50,000.

For example, a woman wanting to insure her ex-husband's life until he reached 60 would pay £14 a month for £25,000 of cover if he is currently between the ages of 36 and 40. The net cost after tax relief works out at £11.90.

Insuring a 55-year-old for £50,000 until age 60 works out at £54.40 a month after tax relief.

It is not cheap - and of course the ideal answer is to persuade your former spouse to co-operate and have a medical in the usual way. If he is prepared to do this the comparable cost of £50,000 worth of cover for a 55-year-old works out at only £25 one of the middle-of-the-road companies like Commercial Union. Peace of mind is worth paying for.

Lorna Bourke

FAMILY MONEY MARKET

Banks
Current account - no interest paid.
Deposit accounts - Midland, Barclays, Lloyds, Natwest 5 1/2 per cent, seven days notice required for withdrawals. National Girobank 7 per cent. Lloyds extra interest 9 per cent. Monthly income account Natwest 5 1/2 per cent. Fixed term deposits £2,500-£25,000 - 1, 3 and 6 months 6 1/2 per cent. Rates quoted by Barclays. Other banks may differ.

Fund	Fat	APR	Telephone
Adrian Hunt	8.95	9.00	01 238 8070
Bull Standard	8.9	8.9	01 238 8080
Britannia unit	9.00	9.381	01 238 2777
Malvern unit	8.75	8.75	01 488 8834
Openwater			
Since			
High interest	8.52	8.70	01 238 3887
deposit account			
S & P unit	8.80	8.870	0800 65586
Saver's Weg	8.80	8.80	01 322 5300
Tulley & Bly	8.81	8.84	01 236 6932
T & R 7 day	8.95	9.19	01 236 0252
Tynard 7 day	8.75	9.03	0272 732241
Tynard unit	8.8	8.8	0272 732241
UDT 7 day	8.82	9.50	01 828 5060
Western Trust			
1 month	8.86	9.01	0752 261161

National Savings Bank
Ordinary accounts - interest 3 per cent, first £70 of interest tax-free. Investment Account - 11 per cent interest paid without deduction of tax, one month's notice of withdrawal, maximum investment £200,000.

National Savings Certificates 26th Issue
Return totally free of income and capital gains tax, equivalent to an annual interest rate over the five-year term of 8.25 per cent, maximum investment £5,000.

National Savings Income Bond
Min investment £2,000 - max. £200,000. Interest - 11 1/2 per cent variable at six weeks notice - paid monthly without deduction of tax. Repayment at 3 or 6 months notice - check penalties.

National Savings 2nd index-linked certificates
Maximum investment £10,000, excluding holdings of other issues. Return tax-free and linked to changes in the retail price index. Supplement of 0.2 per cent per month up to October 1983 paid to new investors; existing holders receive a 2.4 per cent supplement between October 1982 and October 1983 4 per cent bonus if held full five years to maturity. Cash value of £100 Retirement issue certificates purchased in November 1978, £177.46 including bonus and supplement.

National Savings Deposit Bond
Minimum investment £500 max. £50,000, 11 1/2 per cent variable at six weeks notice. Credited annually without deduction of tax. Repayment at three months notice. Half interest only paid on bonds repaid during the first year.

Guaranteed Income Bonds
Return paid net of basic rate tax, higher rate taxpayers may have a further liability on maturity.
2 & 3 years Canterbury Life 8.5 per cent.
3 years Canterbury Life 8.5 per cent.
4 years General Portfolio 8.5-10.5 per cent.
Sentry Insurance 9.75 per cent.

Local authority yearling bonds
12-month fixed rate investments, interest 9 1/4 per cent basic rate tax deducted at source (can be reclaimed by non-taxpayers), minimum investment £1,000, purchased through stockbroker or bank.

Local authority town hall bonds
Fixed term, fixed rate investments, interest quoted gross (basic rate tax deducted at source reclaimable by non-taxpayers). 1 year Lambeth 10 1/2 per cent. 2-3 years Hyndburn 9 1/2 per cent. 4-8 years Knowsley 11 1/2 per cent. 9-10 years Wirthing 11 per cent. Further details available from Chartered Institute of Public Loans Bureau (01-828 7855 after 3pm); see also on Frontal no 24808.

Building societies
Ordinary share accounts - 7.25 per cent. Term shares - 1 to 5 years, between 0.5 per cent and 1.75 per cent over the BSA recommended ordinary share rate depending on the term. Regular savings schemes - 1.25 per cent over BSA recommended ordinary share rate. Rates quoted above are those most commonly offered. Individual building societies may quote different rates. Interest on all accounts paid net of basic rate tax. Not reclaimable by non-taxpayers.

Investors in Industry
Fixed term, fixed rate investments of between 3 and 10 years, interest paid half-yearly without deduction of tax: 3 years, 10 1/2 per cent; 4-5 years, 11 per cent; 6-10 years, 11 1/2 per cent. Further information from 31, 91 Waterloo Road, London SE1 (01-828 7822).

Finance house deposits (UDT)
Fixed-term, fixed-rate deposits, interest paid without deductions of tax. Five-Fifty scheme: 6 months 9 1/4 per cent; 1 year, 9 1/2 per cent; 2 years, 10 per cent.

Foreign currency deposits
Rates quoted by Rothschild's Old Court Intl. Reserves 0481 26741. seven days notice is required for withdrawal and no charge is made for switching currencies.

US dollar	8.60 per cent
Yen	5.31 per cent
£100	4.80 per cent
French Franc	11.20 per cent
Swiss Franc	1.94 per cent

October RPI: 340.7 (The new RPI figure is not announced until the third week of the following month.)

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£500 and over	8.00% net/ 11.43% gross*
£100 or more but less than £500	7.25% net/ 10.36% gross*
Under £100	6.50% net/ 9.29% gross*

* to basic rate taxpayers

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I/We enclose a cheque for £ to be invested in a Money Management Account (£1-£30,000 or up to £60,000 in joint names).

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FAMILY MONEY

Unit trust performance

These tables show the value on November 1 of £100 of units invested 12 months ago and three years ago - see income reviewed and based on an offer-to-offer basis. Figures supplied by Planned Savings Statistics

FINANCIAL	12mths	36mths
Nat West Financial	149.8	174.6
Henderson Fin	139.9	145.7
Target Invest Trst	138.2	166.9
James Finlay Inv T	138.4	173.6
Practical	138.3	166.3
S&P Invest Trst Un	135.8	163.4
S&P Financial Secs	135.6	175.5
Britannia Inv Trst	134.9	140.5
S&P Securities	134.5	146.3
M&G Fd of Int Tts	133.7	159.1
Britannia Fin Secs	131.9	155.1
Hill Samuel Fin	129.2	134.5
Kingwell Bld Inv	128.6	134.5
Brown Shipley Fin	128.4	126.4
Britannia Prop Svc	127.8	115.3
Tyndall Financ & P	126.7	122.2
Barclaybank Fin	125.7	120.9
Target Financial	124.8	149.2
Abbey Worldwide Bld	124.5	176.1
Legal & Gen Gilt	115.2	115.2
Franklin Cove & G	113.9	113.9
Tyndall Gilt Cap	113.3	144.9
S&P Inter Bld	111.5	111.5
Vanguard Gilt	110.4	110.4
Allied Gilt Growth	108.6	108.6
Cambridge Gilt & P	108.1	108.1
Henderson Fint	107.9	146.3
Tyndall Preference	107.9	118.0
Arbuthnot Fand P	106.5	106.5
Proffitt Gilt Capital	106.5	106.5
Equity & L G Fint	106.2	106.2
Henderson Gilt	106.2	130.6
Abbey G & F Int	106.2	134.1
Nat West G & F Int	105.8	145.3
Fidelity Gilt & P	105.8	105.8
Hill Sam G & F Int	105.8	105.8
Barclaybank G Inc	105.2	105.2
Cater Allen Gilt	105.2	147.4
GRE Gilt & Fint	105.1	105.1
TSB Gilt & Fint	105.0	105.0
Gartmore Gilt	104.7	141.0
Mercury Gilt	104.5	104.5
Manville G & F Int	104.3	104.3
Hill Sam G & F Int	104.3	144.2
Britannia Gilt	104.3	104.3
Barrington Gilt Yld	104.0	140.5
Tyndall Gilt Inc	103.9	140.5
Target Gilt Income	103.9	141.4
Target Gilt Capital	103.7	140.5
Midland Bld & Fd	103.6	140.1
Arbuthnot Pref Share	103.3	137.3
Arbuthnot Pref & G	103.0	134.2
Rowan Fixed Int	102.6	102.6
Crabtree Gilt	102.6	121.4
Target Pref Share	102.5	125.4
M&G & F Int Inc	102.5	102.5
Allied Growth Sec	102.5	147.5
S&P G & F Int Grth	101.9	142.5
Rowan High Int	101.8	101.8
Key Fixed Interest	101.6	144.1
S&P Gilt & F Int Inc	101.2	135.3
Schroder G & F Int	100.8	100.8
Chiefman Pref & G	99.4	116.8
Arbuthnot G & F Int	98.7	128.8
Britannia Pref Share	96.1	114.2

GROWTH 12mths 36mths
FTA All Share 122.4 160.3

INCOME	12mths	36mths
Gartmore Spec Svc	114.3	122.8
Barrington Div	113.9	158.6
Abbey UK	113.0	144.6
Arbuthnot CG	112.0	119.3
HK Private	107.8	125.2
Schroder Sp S	0.0	0.0
FT All Share	122.4	160.3
FT Industrial Ord	121.4	162.2
Canon Income	154.5	154.5
F&C Income	143.7	168.8
Nat West Extra Inc	141.5	190.6
M&G Mid & Gen	137.6	170.7
Nat West Income	137.3	193.2
Mercury Inc & Res	135.6	135.6
Schroder Income	135.1	183.8
Franklin Ex Inc	132.6	164.5
Equity & Law H In	132.4	132.4
S&P Scotlands	132.0	166.2
Fidelity Income	131.7	167.8
M&G Dividend	131.7	205.1
Fidelity Max In Eq	131.7	205.1
Lloyds Bank Inc	131.6	165.4
Nat West Shply H In	130.8	154.6
Aitken Hume S In	130.8	142.6
Brown Shipley Inc	130.2	172.8
M&G Dividend	130.0	164.0
Yieldco Svc Inc	129.9	173.1
Yieldco Svc Inc	129.8	142.3
Ridgfield Inc	129.5	145.8
Pearl Income	129.3	172.3
Henderson Inc & G	129.2	180.9
Rowan High Yield	128.8	166.6
Tyndall Income	128.7	160.5
Midland Bank Inc	128.7	161.0
Allied High Inc	127.8	184.1
Lloyds Bk Ex Inc	127.7	161.2
Abbey High Inc Eq	127.5	176.3
S&P High Return	127.4	165.1
S&P High Yield	127.3	162.6
Nat West Growth	127.1	158.7
Proffitt High Inc	126.7	184.8
Kingwell Bld Yld	126.7	154.2
Midland Bld Yld	126.1	156.7
TSB Income	126.0	194.0
Gartmore Income	126.0	173.2
Hill Samuel Income	125.9	166.9
Franklin Income	125.5	169.6
Nat West High Inc	125.3	141.5
Barrington H Yld	125.3	172.8
Yieldco H Yld Fd	125.1	138.6
M&G High Income	124.9	160.1
Barclaybank Ex Inc	124.5	156.8
Allied Equity Inc	124.2	172.7
Vanguard High Yld	124.0	124.0
McAnally Divd In	123.6	134.6
Henderson Svc Cx	123.9	168.2
Canlife Income	123.8	162.8
Perpetual Income	123.7	193.2
M&G Extra Yield	123.7	158.9
Henderson H Inc	123.7	164.3
TR Inc Monthly	123.5	155.4
Britannia Nat H Inc	123.0	158.0
Royal Tst Inc	122.8	155.1
M&G Convex Inc	122.8	156.2
Barclaybank Inc	122.7	172.7
Chiefman G & Grth	122.5	145.5
James Capel Inc	122.2	178.5
Hill Samuel H Yld	122.1	158.1
Key Income	122.0	169.1
Crescent High Dist	121.6	175.5
GT Income	121.5	141.7
Arbuthnot H Inc	120.4	141.4
Crescent Grth & Inc	120.3	155.7
S&P Income	120.1	157.2

GENERAL	12mths	36mths
FTA All Share	122.4	160.3
FT Ind Ord	121.4	162.2
Schroder Sm Cos	159.7	230.4
Britannia Rec	154.5	155.2
Leo Capital	150.8	200.7
Lloyds Bk Sm C&R	148.5	205.1
Wicklow Svc	147.4	226.7
Franklin Rec	145.8	145.8
Rowan Merit	144.0	155.1
Hill Samuel Sm C	143.4	181.5
Nat West Rec	140.2	140.2
Arbuthnot Sm C	139.3	238.6
Kingwell Bld Sm C	138.6	188.9
MLA	138.0	241.6
Royal Ldn Cap Ac	137.7	190.8
Legal & Gen Eq	137.5	190.8
Mencap	133.8	133.8
Family Fund	133.6	161.5
Barclaybank Gen	132.7	175.5
Key Equity and Gen	131.5	191.8
M&G Smaller Cos	131.1	154.6
Pelican	130.5	180.5
GT Tech & Gr	130.5	162.5
T&G Coleman	130.0	180.6
Minster	129.5	191.0
Allied Balanced	129.4	166.4
New Court Sm C	128.9	177.6
Barrington Gen	128.7	172.5
Britannia Shield	128.7	114.9
Pegasus Equity	128.6	128.6
Hill Samuel Bld	128.1	158.7
Quadrant General	127.8	184.4
HK Small Cos	127.8	175.9
Norwich Union Gr	127.7	182.6
Anderson	127.6	146.4
Trades Up Uts	127.5	165.6
S&P UK Equity	127.5	165.2
Hill Samuel Sec	127.3	156.3
Britannia Dnsse	127.3	148.8
Archway	127.1	156.7
Buckmtr Bkham	126.3	132.9
Equity & Law Gen	126.3	171.2
Opynhar In & Gth	126.0	149.1
Midland Bld Jpn & Pac	125.6	154.5
Arbuthnot E & In	125.5	164.8
S&P Japan Grth	124.6	139.6
S&P Euro Grth	124.6	213.4
Henderson P Sm C	124.3	144.9
Equity & Lw Far E	124.2	172.7
Brown Shply Orient	123.5	146.4

Social Security
NI contributions
may soar to pay
for unemployed

Any day now the Government will make its yearly pronouncement on national insurance contributions. The inevitable result will be many more people having to dig deeper into their pockets from next April, to try and find perhaps a minimum of about £1.50 a week extra.

The national insurance fund, into which contributions go, is under pressure at the moment with unemployment over the 3 million mark. The problem is that the more people who are out of work, the more has to be paid out in unemployment and supplementary benefits, which fewer people are paying contributions and tax.

With general increases in retirement pensions and other social security benefits due later this month it is likely that next April's increase in national insurance is going to be swinging one.

It is likely to be related to earnings: the more you earn, the more you pay, up to a certain threshold. What will affect high earners most is the new top earnings figure on which maximum contributions are calculated. At the moment this is £235 a week (£12,220 a year).

By law, this upper figure must be set at between 6½ and 7½ times the amount of a weekly lower earnings limit, which under which you do not have to pay contributions. In turn, that limit corresponds roughly with the amount of the single person's retirement pension rate. Based on this, it is possible to work out what might happen.

Next April, the retirement pension will be £34.05 a week. Rounding the figure, a reasonable guess at the new lower limit would give a new upper limit of about £250 (or £13,000 a year).

National insurance contributions are (for those not members of approved company pension schemes) at present 5 per cent of all earnings up to the top limit. The present maximum contribution is £21.15 a week. Based on the projected

upper limit, it would rise to around £22.50 which equals a startling £1,170 a year out of taxed income.

Under this arrangement, only those earning over £12,220 a year at present would have to pay more. However, it must be debated whether this alone would bring in enough income to meet the continuing heavy demand for benefits. The percentage people pay might well have to go up, too.

If this happens, everyone will be affected. For example, an increase of 0.5 per cent, bringing the contribution rate to 5.5 per cent, would mean small increases for lower earners only 50p a week for someone earning £100.

At the higher earnings levels, however, it would mean ever steeper increases. Maximum contributions would rise to something like £23.75 a week - an overall increase of around £2.60.

If the rise were to be as much as 1 per cent, it could mean the higher-paid would face a weekly increase in national insurance contributions of almost £4.

Considered separately, these figures are bad enough, but because contributions are paid after tax, it means that most people are facing a true overall rate of deduction well in excess of 40 per cent.

For example, someone now earning £12,220 a year, who gets a rise of, say, £500 in April, could find almost £300 of it disappearing in tax and contributions, if only 0.5 per cent rise in the rate came about.

The contribution rates for people in approved occupational pension schemes are lower. Here, the current maximum is £16.79 a week. A new maximum, based simply on a rise in the upper limit, could work out at around £17.86. An increase of 0.5 per cent in the rate as well would mean people in this position having to find an extra £2.15 or so a week.

Ian McDonald

A NEW VENTURE AIMED AT CAPITAL GROWTH U.S. EMERGING COMPANIES TRUST

An Authorised U.K. Unit Trust



- This trust represents a new dimension for U.K. investors. Its aim is capital growth through investment in the shares of emerging U.S. companies.
- Typically such companies have entered a growth period after their formative years and are on the threshold of rapid earnings acceleration.
- In the U.S., emerging companies are often publicly owned early in their development. Many of the stocks are traded on the OTC (Over The Counter) market.
- Because many of the companies will be only one step forward from the venture capital stage, the trust is likely to appeal to investors prepared to take an above average risk to achieve an above average return.
- A specialist U.S. investment management group has been appointed to advise on the trust.

Why Emerging Companies?

A significant redeployment of investment funds is taking place in the U.S. New social attitudes towards personal fulfilment and risk taking encourage new enterprises and attract entrepreneurial management to them. The combination of entrepreneurial flair, rapidly changing technology and helpful tax conditions creates an exceptionally favourable climate for small emerging companies.

Portfolio Composition

The trust will comprise about 30 stocks with an emphasis in two broad areas of development: Electronics, where vast new economic opportunities are being created through semi-conductors, memory devices, micro-processors, graphic displays, software and communications, and Medicine, where developments in diagnostic imaging, testing, genetic engineering, medical electronics and drugs are producing new, expanding markets.

Specialist Investment Advice

The nature of this new trust makes unique demands on investment experience, hard - if not impossible - to find in the U.K. We are therefore extremely pleased to have as advisers Bigler Investment Management Co. Inc., whose two principals are recognised in the U.S. as being outstanding in their respective fields and who together provide a rather special insight into the emerging companies sector.

Hal Bigler was formerly in charge of securities investments at Connecticut General Life Insurance Company and was responsible for assets of U.S.\$14 billion.

Officer of the Chase Investors Management Corporation and prior to that head of equity investments at Bank of America. He has achieved an outstanding record as a money manager for corporate clients in the U.S.

Initial Offer of Units

This will take place between Tuesday 8th November and Tuesday 29th November, 1983* at an offer price of 50.0p on which the estimated gross annual income yield will be 0.5%. Units may be bought or sold thereafter on any business day at prices ruling on receipt of instructions.

Initial Bonus

As this is a new unit trust, the initial issue price does not include any rounding adjustment. This feature represents an effective bonus to all initial subscribers since an adjustment of up to 1% will be introduced in subsequent valuations.

To invest now, simply return the coupon to us with your cheque, minimum £500 - and share in the future success of emerging U.S. companies.

The price of units, and the income from them, can go down as well as up.

In 1968 he originated the venture capital programme, recognised as one of the most successful in the U.S. His colleague, Don Lattimer was formerly Chief Investment

General Information
You can buy or sell units on any business day. A Contract Note will be sent on receipt of your instructions, and a Unit Certificate issued within 4 weeks. Payments for repurchased units are normally made within 10 days of receipt of your instruction. Unit Certificate: Prices and yields appear daily in the FT. An initial charge of 5% is included in the offer price. An annual charge of 0.75% of the Trust's value plus VAT is deducted from the Trust's gross income. The Trust Deed permits maximum charges of

* Initial and 2nd annual. Remuneration is paid to qualifying intermediaries; rates on request. Income is distributed annually on 30th November. The Royal Bank of Scotland London Trustee Company. The Trust Deed contains provision for the Managers to invest in 'Traded Options' subject to the limitations laid down by the Department of Trade and Industry. The Trust is a Wider Range investment. Offer not open to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

Initial Offer of 50.0p per unit until 29th Nov. 1983

Application Form
To: Abbey Unit Trust Managers Limited, 1-3 St Paul's Churchyard, London EC4A 3BF (Reg. Office). Tel: 01-236 1833.

I/We enclose a cheque for £ (minimum £500) payable to Abbey Unit Trust Managers Ltd. for investment in Abbey U.S. Emerging Companies Trust at 50p per unit (offer closes 29th Nov. 1983 or earlier at the Managers' discretion).
I/We wish the income to be automatically re-invested to purchase additional units (delete if not required).
I/We are over 16 years of age.

Surname _____ Forename(s) _____
Address _____ (BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE)
Postcode _____ Date _____
Signature _____
Job: _____ (tick appropriate box) _____
I/We have read and understand the details of the Trust and its objectives.

Abbey Unit Trust Managers Ltd. Registered in England No. 872641
A subsidiary of Abbey Life Group Ltd. A Branch Company of F.T.F. Member of the Unit Trust Association

Abbey Unit Trusts

International Investment Management for the Private Investor

Fraser Henderson Limited offer a complete discretionary portfolio management and financial planning service to private investors and trustees. The overall approach to portfolios is international in scope, and our investment managers are highly experienced in the world's financial markets. If you would like further information please complete the coupon below and return to us at Fraser Henderson Ltd., 28B Albemarle Street, London W1X 3BA, or ring Timothy Thomas on 01-4997551.

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Licensed Dealers in Securities.

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Address _____

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£5647 TAX FREE

IN TEN YEARS
PLUS £2000 LIFE COVER NOW

If you are married or have a dependent child and are under 70 years of age - you qualify for an Investor Tax-Free Bond.

About the Bond
The Investor Tax-Free Bond from Fleet Friendly Society offers a savings plan with the prospects of real growth over ten years - FREE OF ALL TAXES! The Bond also provides up to £2000 life cover - without any medical examination.

How it Works
The Fleet is one of the very few Friendly Societies to be wholly tax exempt. This means that when you save with the Fleet you pay no tax at all on your investment profits. In addition, every £100 you save immediately becomes £117.50 because Fleet claim tax relief on your behalf. The Fleet places half of your savings in a special Halifax Building Society account and half with Barclays Unicom 300 Trust.

Low charges, no commission
Fleet's charges are among the lowest of all Friendly Societies - and unlike some other Friendly Societies - Fleet does not pay commission to third parties. Just make a comparison, the benefits to you. The investor, are obvious!

How much and how long?
Because of the very special tax benefits of this Bond, the law rules that a qualifying person may only invest £280 p.a. gross (£238 p.a. net) for ten years. Alternatively the Bond may be funded from a single annual payment of about £1800 - the exact sum depends on your age.

The Next Step
For full details mail the coupon or phone us today on 01-834 9090. We are here 7 days a week.

* Current rates of growth and tax relief subject to change.

PHONE 01-834 9090 FOR DETAILS
ANY DAY, ANY TIME

To: Fleet Friendly Society, Fleetport, London EC4A 4AP (no stamp required)
Please send details of the Investor Tax-Free Bond.

Name _____
Address _____

All investments placed with

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	9%
Barclays	9%
BCCI	9%
Citibank Savings	11.0%
Consolidated Crds	9%
Continental Trst	9%
C. Hoare & Co	9%
Midland Bank	9%
Nat Westminster	9%
TSB	9%
Williams & Glyn's	9%

↑ Interest Rate Table

£10,000, 6%: £10,000 up to £100,000, 7%: £100,000 up to £250,000, 8%: £250,000 up to £500,000, 9%: £500,000 up to £1,000,000, 10%: £1,000,000 up to £2,000,000, 11%: £2,000,000 up to £5,000,000, 12%: £5,000,000 up to £10,000,000, 13%: £10,000,000 up to £20,000,000, 14%: £20,000,000 up to £50,000,000, 15%: £50,000,000 up to £100,000,000, 16%: £100,000,000 up to £200,000,000,

Unit trusts

FAMILY MONEY

Insurance

Debt reform call

Reform of methods of debt collection are called for by the National Consumer Council which criticises the present system as being inefficient and often too harsh. "The number of consumers with debt problems is growing," says the report. "For most people it's not that they won't pay, but that they can't."

Many creditors take inappropriate and costly steps to enforce the payment of debt without obtaining the details of the circumstances of debtors. The result is that some determined debtors get their money back, while others get nothing. "There is a much better chance of all creditors being repaid," says the report, "if at all stages of debt collection, debtors' money and family circumstances are taken into account."

Health cover

Permanent health insurance to replace income if you are sick is a must if you are going abroad to work. The likelihood of picking up some strange bug is that much higher. NEL International (NELI) is wowing this market and is offering normal cover, with extras.

NELI does not require expatriates who claim benefit to return to the UK. As overseas residents they can continue to receive benefit either in one of NELI's 20 listed countries, or for slightly higher premiums in most other countries of their choice. All premiums and benefits are payable in sterling.

Pensions plea

Greater equality for female members of company pensions schemes is being pushed by the Equal Opportunities Commission. Ms Jane Finlay, the Commission's deputy chairman said at the National Association of Pension Funds conference this week: "The Commission would like to see all pension schemes giving women the option of staying on until the same age as men so that they can earn a more adequate pension."

The EOC would also like to see survivors' benefits provided on the same basis for both men and women, including benefits to surviving husbands and dependent children.

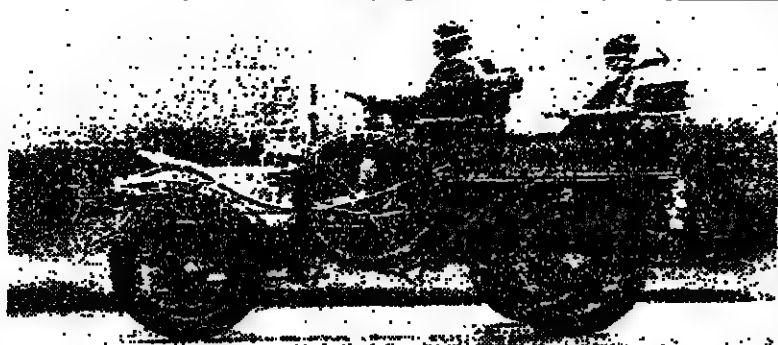
Venturing into industry

The European Venture Capital Association has been formed by 38 companies from Britain and six other EEC countries.

Eleven British companies have joined the association. Mr Tony Lorenz of Equity Capital for Industry is one of the three co-chairmen.

The association aims to promote venture capital investment in small and medium-sized industries across national borders.

Banks, stockbrokers, pension funds and similar institutions are being invited to join as associate members.



Golden insurance

Veteran car owners are being courted with a motor insurance policy designed especially to cater to their needs. Sun Alliance is offering its Golden Age policy at Britains's 250,000 veteran, vintage and classic car enthusiasts. It reckons that it can keep costs down and still meet the special needs of these drivers.

Sun Alliance is concentrating particularly on the post 1983 marques which have now become collectors' items - the Triumph TR4 and Aston Martins of the 1960's.

Cover is for named drivers aged over 25 with good driving records, travelling no more than 3,000 miles a year on domestic and pleasure trips. Cover for a

1980 Aston Martin DB4 worth £8,000, aged 45, living in Bristol, works out at only £55.

Unit trust package

Fund managers Henderson, the best performing unit trust group compared with the 10 major groups in the industry every year for the last seven years, is wrapping up six of its specialist unit trusts in a package deal.

These include Henderson Special Situations, Global Healthcare, Japan Special Situations, American Smaller Companies, Global Technology and Oil and Natural Resources. Minimum investment is £3,000 and Henderson recommends an equal split between the six trusts.

GRE premiums rise

Guardian Royal Exchange is increasing motor insurance premiums by an average of 8 per cent, but the move will affect some motorists more than others.

In an attempt to prevent policyholders from cancelling en masse there is a new loyalty bonus of 2.5 per cent which will be given to any existing GRE policyholder with a no claims discount protected policy when renewed after December 31st. Clients will receive the bonus when the policy has been renewed with GRE for two years.

Scots' status symbols

Bank of Scotland has introduced its own status symbol credit card, the Premier Visa Card, competing with the likes of American Express's Gold Card. It is aimed at people earning in the region of £15,000 a year and gives the holder an instant overdraft facility at Visa banks of up to £7,500.

In addition, cardholders may encash their personal Bank of Scotland cheques up to £250 in any one day at any British branch of Bank of Scotland and Barclays.

Cardholders and their immediate families are automatically covered by up to £200,000 of travel accident insurance when the card is used for any form of public transport, but this does not include cover for medical fees. Annual subscription cost for the card is £35.

Have card, will travel

American Express is promoting the idea of "Cashless Venice" as a place for a short winter weekend break, out of season and away from the crowds. Local shops, restaurants and hotels have been signed up to take Amex. And if you really go with no cash, you can even buy your newspaper on American Express.

The promotion has been launched in conjunction with local hoteliers and the Chamber of Commerce with 50 per cent off all hotel room prices until the end of February.

Hot-line advice

The spectre of equal pay legislation due to come into force on January 1 has given Hambro Houseley an opportunity to promote its legal insurance expenses scheme which has the edge over most similar schemes because it offers a 24-hour hot line to personnel and legal specialists primed to offer instant advice.

Bonds offer

One-and-two-year guaranteed income bonds paying 8.4 per cent are on offer from English Insurance, a member of General Accident group. The return is net of basic rate tax but higher rate taxpayers could incur a liability. Minimum investment is £2,000. The offer is limited and could be withdrawn without notice.

Investment

Split takes the T out of GT

The T has separated from the G in GT Management, one of the most successful private investment partnerships, which has seen funds under management climb from nil to almost £2,000m in just 14 years.

Mr Richard Thornton, chief investment officer and chief executive, has resigned after "some disagreements about various aspects of the business, which were in no way connected to investment policy," Mr Tom Griffin, the chairman, disclosed.

Mr Thornton and Mr Griffin who both own about 14 per cent of the company, were quick to reject any inference that a row had developed over internal matters and policy.

Murmurs of disquiet began last June, when Mr Griffin stepped down and Mr Thornton became chief investment officer, controlling the 30-strong management team.

Mr Griffin insisted that the performance of the funds would not be affected. He said: "We operate as a team. Mr Berge Boyd, group managing director, will be returning from San Francisco to replace Mr Thornton and will join Benson Fung and myself in forming a new inner cabinet to determine policy and long-term prospects."

Mr Thornton has not yet decided what to do now, other than take a holiday. He intends retaining his stake in GT, but is not precluding either starting afresh - "If I can find someone to put in the money" - or joining a competitor.

Insurance

A new deal on full cost cover

A new "no sum insured" house insurance scheme offering unlimited cover has been devised by the broker Clarkson Puckle through the British Reserve Insurance Company. And it compares well with the leader in this field, the Trustee Savings Bank's scheme with Provincial Insurance.

Both provide an alternative to index-linked schemes, avoiding their inconsistencies and the need for regular updating.

Clarkson Puckle's scheme, like TSB's, does not restrict the cost of replacement or repair to any figure but pays out the full cost, whatever it is. It insures against all risks normally required to be covered by building societies.

All Clarkson Puckle's proposal form wants to know is the type of property, its age and the number of bedrooms. For a three-bedroomed terraced house outside the London postal area premiums range from £35 for pre-1920, £40 for 1920-1945, £45 for 1945-1960, £50 for 1960-1970, £55 for 1970-1980, £60 for 1980-1985, £65 for 1985-1990, £70 for 1990-1995, £75 for 1995-2000, £80 for 2000-2005, £85 for 2005-2010, £90 for 2010-2015, £95 for 2015-2020, £100 for 2020-2025, £105 for 2025-2030, £110 for 2030-2035, £115 for 2035-2040, £120 for 2040-2045, £125 for 2045-2050, £130 for 2050-2055, £135 for 2055-2060, £140 for 2060-2065, £145 for 2065-2070, £150 for 2070-2075, £155 for 2075-2080, £160 for 2080-2085, £165 for 2085-2090, £170 for 2090-2095, £175 for 2095-2100.

The TSB's premium would be £61.75 in London, £55.85 in the Home counties, and £51.45 elsewhere, regardless of age, for similar properties.

Business Expansion Scheme
Concern over high fees for risk funds



Business Expansion Scheme funds are beginning to cause considerable concern in the City. It is feared these funds, intended originally as a means of risk financing for small businesses, are being used by some managers as a device for generating huge fee income, both from the unsuspecting investor and the companies in which they invest.

As one leading merchant banker said, "Some fund managers seem to think that BES is a charter to manipulate the funds of the investor and ruthlessly exploit the companies in which they invest. Other see it merely as a tax avoidance device and are placing the funds of wealthy investors in companies so well established that there is virtually no risk at all."

"If this process continues," we are likely to see the inland Revenue thinking twice about the whole thing."

The idea is that the funds offer the safety of a wide spread of investments in potentially high risk new and emerging businesses. In return, the individual investor gets tax relief of up to 75 per cent a year on investments of up to £40,000 a year.

There are 30 approved funds with another 15 seeking approval. So far, only one of them does not include initial charges

- the Centreway Group, based in Birmingham.

A fund manager (not involved in BES) and a merchant banker were asked to look through the funds, and they came up with these criticisms and warnings for both investor and investee.

Investors should shop around. The usual initial fee is 7 to 8 per cent, but there are several that charge substantially less - some as low as 2.5 to 3.5 per cent is still arguably generous - particularly for those funds run off the back of existing financial institutions

where the marginal cost of the operation is much lower.

In most cases interest on money awaiting investment goes to the fund management company and is not ploughed back into the fund - another management company perk.

Brokers are usually paid commission of about 2.5 per cent for introducing investors to the fund so if you invest direct, ask for a discount.

Companies looking for finance from these funds should be even more wary. Most financing is a mixture of debt

and equity and fund managers insist on the shares which they buy carrying special rights. There are initial charges for legal fees, surveys, market research, and management company fees. These rarely fall below £30,000 to £50,000 for an investment of £50,000.

The fund management companies have also evolved a neat way of buttering their bread on both sides when it comes to monitoring their investment. They charge the fund 1 or 2 per cent a year and also charge the

investor a management fee for the appointment of a non-executive director. Admittedly, these men will often provide financial expertise lacking in the company. But some of these directors are on index-linked fees.

Watch carefully, said our banker, for the clause that allows the management company rather than the fund, to buy more shares in the company at par. The option is usually for 15 per cent of the equity but some greedy fund management groups are asking for as much as 25 per cent. Almost all funds insist that these shares can be purchased at the original investment price - at any time over the next five years.

Be particularly wary of any clause that grants the management company exclusive rights to bring the company to the stock market if success warrants public flotation.

"You are signing a blank cheque," the banker said. "It is not unknown (CPI) Companies are a case in point" for selling City slickers to charge £400,000 to raise £1m on the Unlisted Securities Market.

All the funds admit that their primary aim is to bring successful companies to the market. If you cannot get out of that clause, insist that the

A highly attractive answer to the problem of capital transfer tax.

The Henderson Inheritance Plan has been designed to enable you to reduce, or even, in certain circumstances, eradicate the effects of C.T.T. on your estate, without suffering any of the disadvantages that come from making gifts during your lifetime. With the Henderson Plan:-

- You retain a measure of control of the amount invested and can still recover it for personal use should your requirements change.
- It is possible to draw on the amount invested to provide yourself with regular payments if required.
- You are not immediately obliged to make a decision on who your heirs should be.

The plan provides for you to lend capital to a specially established trust (of which you are one of the trustees). All future growth on your investment then accrues to the trust, and not to your own estate. What makes the Henderson Inheritance Plan so unusual amongst C.T.T. mitigation schemes is the range of investment options available. Capital can benefit from direct investment in any of the range of top-performing authorised unit trusts managed by the £1 billion Henderson Group or any of the Henderson investment funds.

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If you prefer, we will gladly contact your professional advisor direct. Simply fill in the coupon as appropriate.

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For Technical Services Dept. Henderson Unit Trust Management Limited, 26 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 4DA. Tel: 01-638 5757. Please let my/our adviser have an explanatory brochure together with a 20 minute cassette. Delete as appropriate.

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Address: _____

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Young, fast growing American companies are the target investments for Abbey Life's new Emerging US Companies trust, launched this week. It will invest in growth-oriented companies, typically with a unique product or service.

Mr David Glasgow, managing director of Abbey Unit Trust Managers, said: "The trust offers investors the potential for above-average returns by investing in growing companies early in their development. It will have an actively managed portfolio of some 30 stocks in sectors like computers and telecommunications, health care, automation and robotics.

"Shares of these companies are traded mainly on the American over-the-counter market, which means they are likely to have greater share price volatility as well as higher business risk." This trust is not for widows and orphans. The minimum investment is £300.

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Your Family or the Revenue?

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6. Albert Fisher	25p	84p	+236%
7. Fobel International			
8. AB Electronics			
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10. Steinberg	21p	120p	+471%

* Recommended 2 months running.
* Recommended several times at 8p and 9p.
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- ★ The new-generation CMOS micro-chip is transforming the semiconductor business. Projected sales in the USA are expected to reach \$30 billion by 1990.

Manufacturing output in high technology industry in America has enjoyed sustained growth throughout the recession - while traditional industries slumped. So, once again, the technology sector has proved its ability to thrive, even when other sectors fall prey to market depression. And this is reflected in the performance of technology unit trusts, which have produced outstanding growth over several years.

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REED STENHOUSE GIBBS

Preparatory and Public Schools

Education

How to assess the glossy brochures

Choosing the right school for your son or daughter can be a grueling task. It requires research and hard work though you in general do not have to worry any longer about putting your child down for an independent school at birth unless you live in London and want an exclusive nursery.

In the independent sector the difficulty is often that there appears to be a multitude of choice but little useful information about what a school is really like behind the glossy cover of the prospectus. The first thing to say to parents who are thinking about independent education or have decided on it but are choosing between schools is that there is help available if you know where to look. Second, careful visits to schools are a must.

Before that there is the research to be done. Various books, available in the local library, might help you to prepare a shortlist of schools. The *Public and Preparatory Schools Yearbook*, published by A and C Black, lists all the public schools in the Home Counties as well as the prep schools in the Incorporated Association of Preparatory Schools, with brief details about each school.

It also contains all schools in the Society of Headmasters of Independent Schools. A companion volume, *Girls School Yearbook*, does the same for the independent girls schools which belong to the Girls' Schools Association.

The Parents' Guide to Independent Schools, published by SFIA Education Trust in Maidenhead, is another useful book which gives advice on what points to look for in choosing a school and lists profiles of 1,198 prep and 832 public schools, supplied by the schools themselves. It contains some especially valuable maps showing schools in different regions.

There is little what might be called "objective" information about schools though a book published last week (Nov 3) by Routledge and Kegan Paul, *Choosing the Right School: A parents guide*, attempts to do this. Like the *Good Food Guide* it contains parents' observations and impressions of individual establishments, most good, some more barbed. It is by no means comprehensive and will be expanded in due course but it gives the flavour of many schools (prep, public and tutorial colleges) and is worth consulting. It gives fees and explains which schools give remedial help with dyslexia.

An example of the entries is the one for Godstowe, a prestige prep school for girls in High Wycombe with fees of £975 a term. Parents commented: "Godstowe is a good school for a

gifted child. Teaching and discipline are excellent but the system of the school tends to make a slower child feel guilty and inadequate."

Another parent wrote: "This is an academically strong school. It is at its best with a bright child. The routine of the school is a little harsh but gets good results. It is not for the faint-hearted child or parent." By contrast another girls' school, Luckley, Oakfield in Wokingham, is said to be good for the less academic and those with special needs but less good for the bright.

Conscientious parents should also write off for information from the Independent Schools Information Service at 56 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6AS (01-630 8793/4) which publishes booklets for a small fee, listing schools by region. ISIS is sponsored by the four main independent schools' associations, containing, for example HMC and the Girls' Schools Association. It is probably worth making sure that the school you choose is a member of ISIS because that way you can be sure the school makes an effort to regulate standards and that if things go wrong you have some recourse. ISIS also produces a leaflet *Questions to Ask When You Visit a School* and in the new year will be publishing a paperback guide to independent schools. This will put ISIS member schools into high street bookshops.

Furthermore ISIS runs an advisory service for parents who may not know exactly what they are looking for or who have to choose a new school owing to changed circumstances or who are in difficulties because of a child's special gifts or disability. It costs £50 for a consultancy and £125 per child for a placement. ISIS International helps parents living overseas. Gabbitts Thring and Truman and Knightley perform a similar kind of service to ISIS.

It is obviously vital that parents choose a school which is right for their particular child. David Freeman says that schools reveal a lot about themselves in their magazines and that parents should read this in conjunction with the prospectus. But the style of the school can be discerned by a visit during term-time by observing staff and pupils and by talking to them.

"No school is worth choosing unless, when first exploring, parents are given ample time with pupils on their own," says David Freeman. "In response to direct questions pupils will say whether they are well occupied at weekends; whether their possessions can safely be left unsecured; whether they were homesick at the start and if so how they tackled

the problem; whether there are many who make no friends."

When talking to the head it is important for the parents to ask the questions that matter to them and the child and not simply to take the school on its own terms. It is essential that the parents of bright children in particular ask about examination results.

What proportion achieved five O levels? How many stayed on into the sixth form? How do they perform at A levels? What proportion go on to higher education? how many get into Oxford and Cambridge each year? For the less academic this kind of information will be much less important than details about clubs and other extra-curricular activities. In talking to staff, parents should ask whether they are people they like and trust. Are they in teaching because they want to be? are they the sort of people parents would like to influence their children? Does the school's practice of religious observance contrast with the indifference at home? If it does, the young may resent it.

David Freeman points out that parents wanting their children to be educated within a rigid framework of imposed control may not approve the easy tolerance of the Quaker schools, for example Leighton Park in Berkshire and The Mount in Yorkshire, while those who value childish self-difference "even to the inconvenience of adults" should avoid St Richard's, Herefordshire. He suggested it may be worth asking the schools for names of other parents with children already at the school. Do they like the school and do they share their values? It is important too that parents should be roughly in sympathy with the house master or house mistress otherwise the pupil's chances of a successful school career are sharply diminished.

Above all, you want a school in which your child is going to be happy and be able to develop. Remember, five years of schooling may be quite an impact and will almost certainly affect your child's life chances of what sort of higher education he or she goes on to and what happens after that. Moreover you may be paying a sum of £40,000 or so for the privilege.

"Conscientious parents want to choose schools they can trust to enhance their children's lives, cultivate their talents, develop their self-confidence, extend their strengths and diminish their weaknesses," says David Freeman. You can't do better than that.

Lucy Hodges
Education Correspondent

THE GIRLS' PUBLIC DAY SCHOOL TRUST INDEPENDENT DAY SCHOOLS FOR GIRLS

Entrance Examinations will take place in January, February or March for entry in September 1984. Applications are also invited to the sixth form. For further information please write direct to the Headmistress at any of the schools listed below.

ASSISTED PLACES: 20 - 40 Assisted Places will be available at each school to girls entering from maintained and independent schools at the age of 11+. Some are also available to SIXTH FORM entrants.

There is available to internal or external candidates one half-fee Scholarship on entry to the Upper School and one half-fee Sixth Form Scholarship at each of the GPDSST schools.

BATH HIGH SCHOOL, Hope House, Lansdown, Bath, BA1 5ES. Tel: 0225 (Bath) 22931

BIRKENHEAD HIGH SCHOOL, 85 Devonshire Place, Birkenhead, Merseyside, L43 1TY. Tel: 051 652 5777

BLACKHEATH HIGH SCHOOL, Wemyss Road, London, SE3 0TF. Tel: 01-852 1537

"BRIGHTON & HOVE HIGH SCHOOL," The Temple, Montpelier Road, Brighton, BN1 3AT. Tel: 0273 (Brighton) 734112

BROMLEY HIGH SCHOOL, Blackbrook Lane, Bickley, Bromley, Kent, BR1 2TW. Tel: 01-468 7981

CROYDON HIGH SCHOOL, Old Farleigh Road, Selsdon, South Croydon, CR2 8YB. Tel: 01-857 0128

IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL, Westerfield Road, Ipswich, IP4 2UH. Tel: 0473 (Ipswich) 52213

KENSINGTON HIGH SCHOOL, 17 Upper Phillimore Gardens, London, W8 7HF (Juniors only). Tel: 01-837 0108

LIVERPOOL: THE BELVEDERE SCHOOL, 17 Belvedere Road, Princes Park, Liverpool, L8 3TF. Tel: 051 727 1284

CENTRAL NEWCASTLE HIGH SCHOOL, Eskdale Terrace, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 4DS. Tel: 0632 (Newcastle) 811768

NORWICH HIGH SCHOOL, 95 Newmarket Road, Norwich, NR2 2HU. Tel: 0603 (Norwich) 53285

NOTTINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, 9 Arboretum Street, Nottingham, NG1 4JB. Tel: 0602 (Nottingham) 417663

NOTTING HILL & EALING HIGH SCHOOL, 2 Cleveland Road, Ealing, London, W19 8AX. Tel: 01-897 5744

OXFORD HIGH SCHOOL, Belbroughton Road, Oxford, OX2 6XA. Tel: 0865 (Oxford) 59888

PORTSMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL, Kent Road, Southsea, Hampshire, PO5 3EG. Tel: 0705 (Portsmouth) 826714

PURNEY HIGH SCHOOL, 35 Putney Hill, London, SW15 8BH. Tel: 01-788 4886

SHEFFIELD HIGH SCHOOL, 10 Rutland Park, Sheffield, S10 2PE. Tel: 0742 (Sheffield) 680324

SHREWSBURY HIGH SCHOOL, 32 Town Walls, Shrewsbury, SY1 1TN. Tel: 0743 (Shrewsbury) 62672

SOUTH HAMPTON HIGH SCHOOL, 3 Maresfield Gardens, London, NW3 5SS. Tel: 01-435 2899

STREATHAM HILL & CLAPHAM HIGH SCHOOL, Waverline Road, London, SW2 3SR. Tel: 01-474 6912

SUTTON HIGH SCHOOL, 55 Cheam Road, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 2AX. Tel: 01-842 0594

SYDENHAM HIGH SCHOOL, 19 Westwood Hill, London, SE26 6BL. Tel: 01-778 8719

WIMBORNE HIGH SCHOOL, Mansel Road, London, SW19 4AB. Tel: 01-848 1758

A school in association with the GPDSST: **"HOWELL'S SCHOOL,"** Llandaff, Cardiff, CF5 2YD. Tel: 0222 (Cardiff) 562019

*Boarding Facilities

ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL

(Independent Boarding and Day School, fully registered with the Dept of Education and Science)

Boys' Dept: The Hall, Gt Finborough, Stowmarket, Suffolk. Girls' Dept: Wickwood, Wymondham, Norfolk.

PLACES AVAILABLE FOR BOARDING/DAY PUPILS

- * Continuous education, 5 to 18 years.
- * All staff fully qualified, mainly graduates.
- * Maximum class size 30 pupils.
- * Good family atmosphere.
- * Extensive grounds - good sports facilities.
- * Entry possible at any age.
- * CSE/GCE 'O' and 'A' level courses.
- * Traditional values, firm but reasonable discipline.
- * Sensible uniform - reasonably priced.

FEES

BOARDING: £260 per term, fully inclusive. DAY: From £350 per term.

Apply for Prospectus: The Admissions Officer, The Hall, Gt Finborough, Stowmarket, Suffolk. Tel: Stowmarket 613848/674479.

ST. FRANCIS' COLLEGE, LETCHWORTH, HERTS



INDEPENDENT BOARDING & DAY SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

(Private day school, London by train or A1 040)

KINDERGARTEN 3½ - 4½

PREPARATORY 4½ - 11

SENIOR SCHOOL 11 - 18

We offer your daughter an excellent education in a happy yet disciplined environment, where the quest for excellence is pursued in a caring, Christian atmosphere.

We have an enviable record of Academic results at 'O', 'A' and 'S' level and we also place great importance on our long tradition of excellence in the Arts and Sports. Our extensive facilities include 5 Modern Science Laboratories, a 600 seat theatre, heated indoor swimming pool and 12 room Music Wing.

Several Scholarships are available for entry into the Senior School and the Entrance Examination is on Saturday, February 11th, 1984.

Please write to the Head for further details and prospectus.

TELEPHONE 0426 4450

KENT COLLEGE CANTERBURY

Co-educational boarding and day school, 650 pupils, 170 in the sixth form. Junior school ages 7 to 11.

Senior school ages 11 to 18. Entrance by examination in February. Scholarships, Bursaries and Assisted Places available. Additional bursaries to assist with boarding fees for Assisted Places holders where necessary.

Prospectus £3,420 per boarder (boarders: £1,885 per day).

Prospectus available on request from the Headmaster, Kent College, Canterbury, Kent.

FELIXSTOWE COLLEGE

Felixstowe, Suffolk, IP11 7RD. Telephone: Felixstowe 240288

Boarding and Day School for 350 girls, ages 11-18. The school entrance test is at 11. The school entrance test is at 11. The school entrance test is at 11.

For further particulars write to: The Headmaster, Millfield School, Somerset BA16 0YD.

CAISTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Caistor, Lincoln LN76QJ

A co-educational day school offering a full range of courses in GCE O-level and A-level. An extensive building programme will be completed in 1984. The 345 pupils include 95 boarders. Admission to the Sixth Form and the Middle School as well as 11+. Boarding fees £465 a term. Fee includes board, tuition, books, uniforms, etc. The school is situated in Lincolnshire County Council has pupils sent out live in Lincolnshire.

Prospectus from Headmaster's Secretary (Tel: 0472 851250).

CITY OF LONDON SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Burdon, London, EC2C 8JH. Tel: 01-477 7100

Three Corporation Scholarships annually for entry age 11, open to all girls, award of £1,000 each. The school entrance test is at 11. The school entrance test is at 11.

For further particulars write to: The Headmaster, Millfield School, Somerset BA16 0YD.

WELLINGBOROUGH SCHOOL

Co-educational, boarding and day school. JUNIOR SCHOOL (AGES 8-13) SENIOR SCHOOL (AGES 13-18)

130 in the Sixth Form. Scholarships and Assisted Places for 11+, 13+ and Sixth Form. Examinations 11th February 1984. Details from the Headmaster, (0832) 222427 or 222888

CAMBRIDGE SEMINARS

An effective alternative to the school form 'A' levels in all subjects, including two-term intensive revision courses (January - June). Enter 'A' level and Senior Certificate courses.

Contact: Dr Stephenson, Cambridge Seminars, 4 Hawthorn Way, Cambridge. Tel: (0223) 313484

ST. MARGARET'S SCHOOL

MERRYHILL ROAD, BUSKET, HERTS.

St. Margaret's, established in 1749, is one of the oldest schools for girls in the country. It caters for girls and boarding pupils from 7 to 18+, and offers all subjects for G.C.E. 'A' and 'O' level examinations, and for entrance to University.

Further details can be obtained from the Headmistress, St. Margaret's School, Busket, Herts. Telephone number: 01-950 1548.

HAILEYBURY

An Independent Boarding School for boys. Girls are taken for 'A' level. Entry at 13+ and VI form. Some scholarships available. Full information and prospectus from: The Registrar, Haileybury, Hertford, Herts. Tel: Heddington 463353.

Millfield Junior School

Edgarley Hall, Glastonbury, Somerset

Scholarships & Bursaries for 1984

Giving a percentage reduction on standard fees which will continue when a pupil transfers to the Senior School.

Candidates should be over 8 years and under 11 years on January 1st, 1984, but consideration will be given to those a few months outside these limits.

Entries close on February 6th 1984. Open Day, February 25th. Assessment takes place on March 3rd. Further particulars and prospectus from the Headmaster.



Millfield School

Street, Somerset

Scholarships & Bursaries for 1984

Approximately 20 SCHOLARSHIPS (Academic and Musical), in addition to a much greater number of bursaries, will be awarded on the results of an examination taken in Spring 1984.

Candidates (boys and girls) should be over 12 and under 14 on January 1st 1984 (Music scholars under 17 in September 1984).

Academic BURSARIES also available for Sixth Form entry.

Academic entries close on January 30th 1984. Music entries close on January 1st 1984.

For further particulars write to: The Headmaster, Millfield School, Street, Somerset BA16 0YD.



ST CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL

Letchworth, Herts

(450 pupils, boarding and day)

offers a complete scheme of education for boys and girls between 2½ and 19 years (boarders from age 7) with:

- * an emphasis on the needs of the individual child with education seen in a holistic perspective
- * small classes, specialist staff and a wide range of courses in languages, arts, science and practical subjects
- * an excellent record of entry to universities (including regularly to Oxbridge) and to vocational training
- * exceptional facilities for drama, music and the creative arts (from theatre to pottery)
- * a friendly informal caring atmosphere in co-educational boarding houses
- * vegetarian whole food diet and an emphasis on humane values and an international outlook
- * realistic involvement of pupils in school government, community service and challenging outdoor activities
- * an attractive campus on the edge of the First Garden City, one mile from the A1 and 5½ miles from Kings Cross.

Admission may be considered at any stage up to the age of 13 and for direct entry to the Sixth Form. Interviews now being held for September entry.

Prospectus from the Head, Colin Reid, MA. Telephone: Letchworth (04626) 79301

QUESTION: Is there an independent school prepared to adjust to my son's educational needs?

ANSWER: Yes. Contact: **BREDON SCHOOL**

We refuse to restrict selection to the results of one examination. We consider the 'whole child' and his future potential, an approach which has resulted in a unique formula for success.

We offer:

1. Secondary education for Boarders and Day Boys from 11-18.
2. A small school of 195 pupils. A teacher ratio of 1 to 8 with classes of 8 to 15 pupils only.
3. Individual attention for those with learning difficulties, e.g. Dyslexia.
4. A well-balanced curriculum offering courses at CSE, GCE 'O' and 'A' level.
5. Excellent facilities in Crafts, Design and Technology, and Agriculture.
6. Further specialisation in academic and/or practical subjects in the 6th Form.
7. A wide range of Outdoor Pursuits, Sports and Games.

Without obligation, write for our prospectus today, visit the school, interview us, and then decide.

BREDON SCHOOL
Pall Court, Baskley, Near Tewkesbury, Glos.
Telephone Tewkesbury 293156

DULWICH COLLEGE

LONDON SE21 7LD

Tel: 01-693 3601

ENTRANCE AND SCHOLARSHIP EXAMINATIONS

for admission in September 1984 will be held on Monday, 30th January 1984 for A-level between 1972 and 31.8.78

Thursday and Friday, 9th and 10th February 1984 for boys born between 1970 and 31.8.71

More than 50 Scholarships and Bursaries will be open for competition (including awards for Music and Art). Bursaries are awarded if clear financial need can be shown.

SIXTH FORM ENTRY Applications are invited for 2 year A-level courses. Some Scholarships and Bursaries are open for competition.

ASSISTED PLACES Government Assisted Places subject to means test, and covering anything up to full remission of fees, will be available for competition at ages 11 and 13 and also at Sixth Form level.

PROSPECTUSES AND FURTHER INFORMATION are available from the Admissions Secretary.

CLOSING DATES FOR APPLICATIONS 31st December 1983 for entry at all ages up to and including 12th March 1984 for Sixth Form entry.

Parents of prospective pupils are always welcome to visit the College by prior appointment through the Admissions Secretary.

HUNMANBY HALL SCHOOL

HUNMANBY, FILEY, NORTH YORKSHIRE YO14 0JA

An Independent School situated near the East Yorkshire coast, with a view of Filey Bay, in delightful parkland of 50 acres.

360 girls, 8-18 years (day girls accepted). A friendly, happy community where the art of living is learned through mutual respect, self-discipline, responsibility and strong encouragement to achieve. Excellent facilities for all subjects. Girls are prepared for 'O', 'A' and 'S' level examinations. Some CSE courses are available. There is a Secretarial Course in the Sixth Form. Visits to France and Germany are arranged, also a wide range of out-of-school activities.

The school has cubicles, bedrooms, a Sixth Form Centre and a new sports hall and a new Music School was opened in June.

Send for prospectus to the Headmistress, and come and visit us to see at first hand the excellent opportunities and happy atmosphere of the school.

WROXALL ABBEY SCHOOL

DAY AND BOARDING

A small well established school providing sound education to 'A' Level for girls 9-18 in a happy family atmosphere with a good variety of extra-curricular activities. Girls may be termly or weekly boarders. Sixth form 'A' Level tuition is in small group and a one year general 'O' Level Sixth Form course is available.

Prospectus from: The Headmistress, Wroxall Abbey School, Warwick, CV39 7NB. Telephone: 05287 220

ALDENHAM SCHOOL

Elstree, Hertfordshire, WD6 8AJ

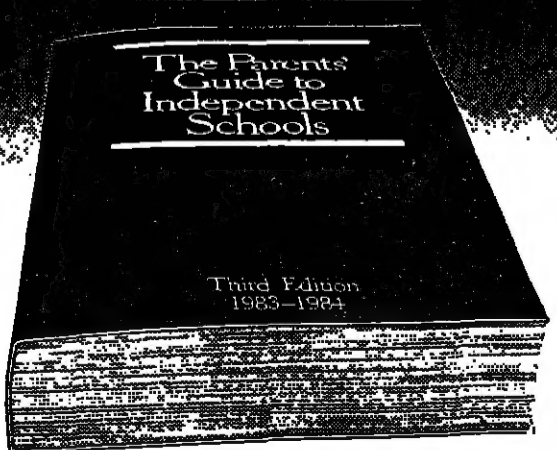
Tel: Radlett (STD 09276) 6131

ADMISSIONS 1984

- * H.M.C., Boys 13+ and Sixth-Form Girls (Boarding and Day).
- * SCHOLARSHIPS offered each year.
- * Government Assisted Places Scheme.
- * 154 day applicants who have not been prepared for Common Entrance will receive special arrangements.
- * Small school situated in the country only 15 miles from central London.

Regular to the Headmaster: Michael Higginbottom, M.A. (Contest), S.M., M.B.E., L.E.

RECOMMENDED READING FOR PARENTS IN NEED OF EDUCATION



The choice of an independent school for your child is a major decision.

It certainly should not be made without consulting *The Parents' Guide to Independent Schools*.

This is the essential reference work for anyone planning a child's school career.

Here, at your fingertips, are comparative facts on 2,174 schools, both preparatory and public.

These range from entry requirements to study details, curricula and extra-curricular facilities to cost and location - maps are provided.

The key issues in choosing a school are discussed. Information is also given on school fees and the best way to meet them. Your child's future is in your hands. This book should be, too. Complete the coupon below, now.

Published by SFIA Educational Trust.

Preparatory and Public Schools

Cheltenham Entrance

Awards will be offered on the examination with the following conditions:

1. Candidates who are 13 at January 1st, 1954, will be eligible for consideration. They will be given the same consideration as the other candidates in the South Perth course and will be given the same consideration as the other candidates in the South Perth course.

2. One or more of the following Scholarships will be offered:

- One or more of the following Scholarships will be offered:
- One or more of the following Scholarships will be offered:
- One or more of the following Scholarships will be offered:

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